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Hafa Adai!

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Man drowns at Sugar Dock

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A 56-year-old male was pronounced dead yesterday after drowning at the Sugar Dock.

The victim's body was found floating outside the reef near Sugar Dock yesterday morning and he was pronounced dead at the Commonwealth Health Center that same day.

This came after the Department of Safety responded to several reports of near-drowning incidents over the weekend.

According to a DPS statement, DPS Dispatch received a call last Sunday, at approximately 5:51pm, reporting a

See MAN on Page 4

Power on Rota almost fully restored

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The island of Rota is recovering fairly quickly, with nearly the whole island re-energized a week after Typhoon Mangkhut raked the island.

In a telephone interview with Rota Mayor Eifram Atalig yesterday, he said that about 90 percent of the island has been re-energized.

During *Saipan Tribune*'s visit to Rota last Tuesday, it was learned that 40-plus power poles were either knocked over or destroyed. The entire island had no power and water.

Yet water has already been completely restored on the island yesterday.

See POWER on Page 4

JON PEREZ
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, fourth from left, receives a $50,000 check from TanHoldings Corp. and its charitable arm, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, as the company's donation coursed through the Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts. The money will be used to help the people of Rota that were affected by Typhoon Mangkhut last week.

TanHoldings, TSL help with Rota relief

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TanHoldings and its charitable arm, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, gave a shot in the arm to Rota's recovery efforts with a donation of $50,000 coursed through the Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts.

CARE president Alex Sablan said their group would do the same thing they did three years ago when they helped facilitate Saipan's recovery efforts after Typhoon Soudelor

"[TanHoldings president] Jerry Tan, in support of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' call to support the people and recovery effort on Rota, agreed to contribute $50,000 from TanHoldings and [TSL] Foundation, which will be managed by CARE in the delivery of

See RELIEF on Page 4

Yuknavage is 2018 Environment Champion

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance presented its 2018 Environment Champion award to the co-owner of a local pharmacy at the annual Green Gala last Friday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

The 6th Annual Green Gala,

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Mangkhut leaves death and destruction, from Hong Kong to the Philippines.
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There's more on the line at the Emmy Award ceremony than personal glory.
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Local

Judge accepts businessman's guilty plea in CW1 scheme

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona accepted yesterday the guilty plea of one of two owners of a company accused of engaging in fraud in connection with the applications for CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program permits.

Manglona said that last Aug. 21, U.S. Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy issued findings and recommendations after a change of plea hearing in the case against Kosuke Tomokiyo.

Tomokiyo pleaded guilty to a count in the indictment that charged him with fraud and misuse of visas and permits.

After receiving no objection, Manglona accepted the guilty plea and adjudged him guilty of that offense.

Manglona set the sentencing for Jan. 18, 2019.

The final presentence report is due Jan. 8, 2019.

Kennedy, who presided over the hearing, had recommended that Manglona accept Tomokiyo's guilty plea.

Tomokiyo signed a plea deal with the U.S. government.

Assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley appeared for the U.S. government during the change of plea hearing.

According to court documents, Tomokiyo is vice president and part owner of K.C.A. Corp. His co-defendant, Mizanur Khan, who is president and part-owner of the company, is charged with four counts of fraud and misuse of visas and permits and two counts of mail fraud.

According to the indictment, on Aug. 5, 2015, Khan lied to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services that three foreign workers would be employed by K.C.A. as an "operation service worker (charcoal maker)" and that they would be employed in that capacity for 40 hours per week, for a period of one year.

On Aug. 22, 2016, Khan and Tomokiyo allegedly lied to USCIS that Tomokiyo had previously been and was to be employed by K.C.A. as a "sales manager," and that Tomokiyo had been employed in that capacity since January 2016. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

JUSTICE IN THE CLASSROOM CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The new Kagman High School officers for school year 2018-2019 pose with Chief Justice Alexandro Castro, center, last Friday.

Red Cross responds to Mangkhut victims

Fifty volunteers who received training on how to conduct damage assessment were mobilized in the wake of Typhoon Mangkhut, according to Red Cross-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh.

"These volunteers are doing general damage assessments [all throughout the CNMI]," he said.

Hirsh noted that since several teams left Thursday last week for Rota and Tinian to help volunteers and partner agencies in damage assessment.

"The Red Cross sent six pallets of relief supplies [through] ship to Rota [Thursday]. Supplies included cleaning kits, flashlights, mosquito nets, blankets, hygiene kits, water containers, tarps, and cots. Supplies will be sent to Tinian as well pending further assessment," he noted.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres over the weekend headed to Tinian to conduct damage assessments with Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas.

Red Cross volunteers from the U.S. mainland are also in Guam to support ongoing relief there, according to Hirsh.

"These responders are experts in disaster response and recovery," he added.

Hirsh urges the public to call Red Cross for "major damage" assistance of homes due to Mangkhut at 234-3459. Assistance would be provided through an appointment system. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

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Man gets 2 years probation, 6 months home detention

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has imposed a sentence of probation and home detention on a notary public after he pleaded guilty to lying in another person's U.S. passport application.

At a sentencing hearing last Friday, Liang Li was sentenced to two years of probation, with six months to be served in home detention.

During the home detention phase of his sentence, Li will be placed on location monitoring program, said U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona.

Li was also ordered to pay a $4,000 fine plus $100 in special assessment fee.

Manglona said the consent form for a U.S. passport application clearly states, as well as Li's admission, that he wrote Jan. 8, 2018, instead of Jan. 10, 2018.

Manglona said Li knew that the father of the child was not physically there when he notarized the consent form.

"So there is overwhelming evidence that you committed the crime," the judge told Li.

The judge said Li was trying to correct his mistake as he knew that the father of the child was not there.

"Yet you stamped the document. That's the crime," Manglona pointed out.

Manglona said she understands Li's mother's sentiment.

The judge said she finds Li to be a hardworking man, a self-made man but "whatever the reasons, you made a bad mistake."

Li owns U Save Car Rental.

Before the sentence was handed down, Li begged the court for leniency.

Li, 34, said he first came to Saipan from China in 2004 when he was only 19 years old.

He said he worked for 14 hours a day for three and a half years, then he eventually opened an internet shop in Kagman and then a car rental business in Garapan.

In 2015, Li became a U.S. citizen.

Li admitted that what he did was wrong and that it was a violation of law. He apologized to the court, the U.S. government, and the community.

Assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto, counsel for the U.S. government, said he would rely on his sentencing memorandum.

The sentencing memorandum recommends a sentence of six months imprisonment and a $4,000 fine.

Benedetto said that people have to be accountable for their conducts.

He pointed out that Li made another mistake when he tried to withdraw his guilty plea and made allegations against his then-attorneys Mark Scoggins and Rene Holmes.

Benedetto said if the court would impose no prison term, the government, however, would not oppose it.

Li's mother cried in court as she, through an interpreter, begged for a lenient sentence for her son, whom she described as hardworking and likeable.

The mother said she and her over 60-year-old husband are sickly and that their son is the only one who supports them.

Janet H. King, counsel for Liang Li, said Li did everything he could to pursue justice, and although he disagrees with the court's ruling to deny the withdrawal of his guilty plea, he respects the court's sentence.

"Now Mr. Li wishes to move on with his life, and to focus on his family," King said.

The defense counsel said Li notarized a DS-3053, a consent form for a U.S. passport application, on Jan. 10, 2018 and backdated it to Jan. 8, 2018 when Mr. Jian Liu, the father giving consent to his child receiving a U.S. passport, was not present.

King said Li has been a notary for 10 years, and he has no criminal history before this case.

King said Li is not a part of the so-called birth tourism industry and he believed strongly that his action was intended to correct a mistake on the form he first notarized on Jan. 8, 2018, when Jian Liu was present.

"However, his actions in notarizing the form again on Jan. 10, 2018, and backdating it to Jan. 8, 2018, went against his oath as a notary and it was a violation of law," King said.

Last April 3, Li pleaded guilty to lying in a passport application but then filed a motion on Aug. 8, asking the court to allow him to withdraw his plea.

He alleged that his former lawyers pressured him to take the plea by giving him less than a day to consider it, telling him he had no chance of winning if he went to trial, and threatening him with prison time if he did not accept the officer—allegations that Benedetto described as false. Manglona denied Li's motion.

Zoning board OKs request for permit to operate B&B

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI Zoning Board has granted a company's application for conditional use permit to operate a bed-and-breakfast in As Lito.

Zoning Board chair Diego C. Blanco, treasurer Mariano Taitano, secretary Joe Ayuyu Jr., and member Patrick Reyes unanimously approved the application of Yang Soo Park for Eunice SPN Corp. during a board meeting Thursday night at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Blanco

Zoning administrator Therese Ogumoro informed the board that their staff had concluded their review of the Eunice SPN Corp.'s proposed use for conditional use permit and finds it acceptable.

The company is proposing to occupy two existing one-story structures with a total of five units to operate the bed-and-breakfast establishment.

The area is zoned as village residential.

Zoning required some conditions for Eunice SPN Corp. to have their request approved.

Zoning planner Marciana D. Igitol said applicant Eunice SPN Corp. shall comply with all CNMI tax laws, including Public Law 20-30, CNMI Tax Hotel Occupancy Tax.

Igitol said Eunice SPN Corp. shall submit a copy of a business license stating the nature of business as "bed and breakfast" within 10 days.

The company, she said, shall ensure that its operation does not generate noise, odor, light and dust that will affect the neighborhood.

The planner said Eunice SPN Corp. shall improve its parking area and designate clearly marked parking stalls in front of its establishment that conforms with parking requirements of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

She said Eunice SPN Corp. shall keep its premises and immediate surroundings clean and free from trash, waste, or debris, and shall screen any trash bins from public view.

11 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged 11 Saipan beaches.

Affected sites are the Central Repair Shop, DPW Channel Bridge, Smiling Cove Marina, American Memorial Park, Micro Beach, Hyatt Hotel, (Da-Ichi) Fiesta Hotel, Garapan Fishing Dock, Sugar Dock, CK Dist#2 Drain, and Hopwood School Beach.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of bacteria that can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. ***(DEQ)***

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FOR ROTA DONATION
Chinese small business owners last Saturday turn over their donation to House floor leader Glenn Maratita (R-Rota) last Saturday to help the people of Rota affected by Typhoon Mangkhut.
JON PEREZ

Legislature ready to act on budget

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Legislature is set to act on the CNMI's fiscal year 2019 budget after the conference committee ironed out all issues in a marathon meeting yesterday at the Senate chamber on Capital Hill.

The House and Senate will be having separate sessions tomorrow, Wednesday, to put House Bill 20-173 SS1 into a floor vote. The House session will start at 9:30am at the House chamber while the Senate is set at 10am.

The budget bill, introduced by House Ways and Means Committee chair Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), will head to the desk of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for review as the CNMI chief executive needs to sign it before Oct. 1 to avert a government shutdown.

The budget went into a conference committee after the House, voting 16-1, rejected the Senate version of H.B. 20-173 SS1 in last week's session.

The conference committee was composed of Demapan, vice speaker Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan), Rep. B.J. Attao (Ind-Saipan), and alternate Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) on the House side, while Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Senate vice president Steve K. Mesngon (R-Rota), Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan), and alternate Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) represented the Senate.

The conference committee met Friday morning and ended at past 7pm. They worked through the weekend, Saturday and Sunday, so they could meet halfway on the issues raised by the House on the amendments made by the Senate when they passed H.B. 20-173 SS1 last Sept. 6.

The final budget bill, as agreed on by Demapan and Hofschneider, shows increases for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Public School System, Northern Marianas College, Medicaid reimbursement, Tinian, and Rota.

YUKNAVAGE

From Page 1

organized by MINA, presented the 2018 Environment Champion award to Brabu Pharmacy co-owner Kathy Yuknavage, among other environmental champions recognized that night.

The other honorees were the Mt. Carmel School Eco Club as the 2018 Green Hero and the N15 Architects as the 2018 Green Business of the Year.

The theme for the night was the International Coral Reef Initiative's International Year of the Reef.

In an interview, Yuknavage told *Saipan Tribune* that she did not know what she did to receive the award, especially since her contributions to the environment consisted mostly of her acting as a conduit to connect stakeholders.

"…We [along with Kuen Hee Han of the Marianas Visitors Authority] have been trying to address some of the red flags we are seeing on beach locations," said Yuknavage, adding that she also does work with the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's water quality surveillance.

Yuknavage said they have been working with the Department of Lands and Natural Resources to reduce foot traffic in the Grotto, one of Saipan's dive sites.

"My section, water quality, does the testing [of water]. I do water quality reports every two years, and these go to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and when we start seeing these upticks of red flags at the Grotto, it is very concerning for us," she said.

"I do my best to partner with all the agencies that have a stake in [the environment]," she added. Those agencies include the MVA, the Division of Public Health, DLNR, and more.

Yuknavage told *Saipan Tribune* that she couldn't take all the credit for the award.

"…I can't take credit…because my work would never get done without all the people I have partnered with. There is not a project I have ever done on my own; it is always in coordination with other people and other agencies," she said. "It was the only way it could have been done."

MAN

From Page 1

capsized kayak and a missing occupant at Sugar Dock behind the Aquarius Beach Tower.

Boating Safety officers responded by sending a jet ski and a jet boat and found the kayak at approximately 6:30pm. It was empty.

Offices then launched a perimeter search for the victim.

According to the victim's son, his father paddled out to fish just west of their picnic site at 3pm. When he checked on his father at 4pm, he was still OK and was still fishing. When he checked again at 4:30pm, he did not see his father or the kayak anywhere.

The victim's son told police officers that he swam out to a group of kayakers anchored in the area who said they noticed a kayak had capsized beyond the reef a while back. The son swam back and called 911.

Officers spoke to another witness on the scene who said he saw the kayak capsize, but it appeared that the victim was getting back on and was OK. Officers continued their search on Sunday but were unable to locate the victim.

Yesterday at 6:45am, DPS received a call reporting a body floating outside of the reef near Sugar Dock. Boating Safety officers recovered the body at 7:05am and transported the victim to CHC. The victim's identity was confirmed as that of the missing kayak operator and he was pronounced dead at 7:52am. The DPS statement did not identify the victim.

Also last Sunday at approximately 10:13am, DPS dispatch received another call reporting a family of four distressed swimmers also at the Sugar Dock behind the Aquarius Beach Tower. Boating Safety launched a rescue boat and made contact with the swimmers at 10:36am.

According to the 17-year-old female victim, she and her 18-year-old brother were drifting on a paddleboard. Realizing that they had gone too far out, the victim said she and her brother started to paddle back but the current was too strong.

Their 53-year-old father and 19-year-old sister paddled out to help them, but were also caught in the strong current.

A nearby paddler noticed the family in distress and called 911. DPS transported all four swimmers safely to the Smiling Cove Marina at 10:41am.

The family, from Koblerville, did not sustain any injuries during the incident.

POWER

From Page 1

At the current pace of recovery, Atalig expects normalcy in a week or so.

"Our recovery efforts have been good…we are inching up and will be up to normalcy in about one week," he said.

Despite these developments, many Rota residents are still without a home or were left with inhabitable homes after Typhoon Mangkhut.

Atalig said the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter remains on Rota and continues with its humanitarian aid as it did for Saipan when Typhoon Soudelor hit the island in 2015.

Atalig said he is aware that the people of Rota are growing frustrated but he would like to assure his constituents that the administration is pushing to speed up the recovery process.

"There is a way to get help but there is a process…It may take time but we are seriously pushing to speed up this process," he said.

Atalig also reported that the Region 9 Federal Emergency Management Agency is still on Rota, conducting damage assessment before they can carry out further recovery efforts.

The Saipan community has also banded together to collect resources to aid those who were affected by Typhoon Mangkhut on Rota.

Atalig said, on behalf of Rota, he is thankful for the amount of help Rota has been receiving from the Saipan community and those who organized the Ayuda Luta Rota Relief Drive.

The relief drive was a collaborative effort among the Ayuda Luta Relief Drive, Lady Diann Torres Foundation, the CNMI Women's Association, and the Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services.

RELIEF

From Page 1

material vouchers to help rebuild homes on Rota," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Torres said the money would help the people of Rota obtain materials and other supplies that they would need to rebuild.

"It's 10 times harder in getting supplies and other goods to Rota. The cost of materials there is much expensive. I honestly feel that the $50,000 is going to go a long way. Hopefully, we could purchase materials here and bring it to Rota. The administration will be a partner by at least paying for the shipping. Thank you and the people of Rota appreciate your efforts," said Torres.

Tan, in a brief message, remembers how it was for Saipan three years ago. "It was three years ago when we experienced Typhoon Soudelor. I remember I was here with the late governor Eloy Inos and we did a [fund] drive called Project Ayuda."

"Unfortunately, we live on an island, for every couple of years sometimes, we experience disasters like that. But one thing about living here in the Commonwealth is we don't forget our neighboring islands—even though we spend most of our time on Saipan."

Tan said this time Rota was the one that was hit the hardest. "Whether it is the Northern Islands, Tinian, and in this case—unfortunately—Rota got hit the worst. Since last week, I've been eager to find out the extent of the damage. But, like the governor said, it is not easy in trying to get help to Rota because of the limited flights."

Tan said the donation aims to help the people of Rota affected by Mangkhut get back on their feet. "We're very happy to do our part in helping our brothers and sisters on the island of Rota. We're glad to be of help, so we appricate everybody's efforts and the one that took place last Saturday at the Garapan Fishing Base."

"I know that this is a community-wide effort. So at TanHoldings and TSL, we're just doing our part, along with everyone else in the community. We want Rota to recover quickly and we want to minimize their suffering. We all experienced the aftermath of [Soudelor] and we don't want to see the people of Rota suffer for a long period of time."

Kilili adds more cosponsors to status bill

Two more congressional members have co-sponsored the Northern Mariana Islands Workforce Stabilization Act, bringing the total number of bipartisan supporters to 34, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) yesterday.

Reps. Gene Green (D-Texas) and Michael Capuano (D-Massachusetts) added their names to Sablan's H.R. 6578 last Thursday.

The Workforce Stabilization Act gives long-term workers in the Marianas the opportunity to obtain green cards and lawful permanent resident status. Sablan included a definition of long-term worker in his Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act, Public Law 115-218, earlier this year.

"It is a longstanding goal of mine to provide lawful permanent resident status to legacy foreign workers," Sablan said. "And Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres decided to support this goal in his Section 902 consultations with the Obama administration.

"The problem is that the Department of Homeland Security expressed concerns in the 902 report, sent to Congress last year, about any grant of status that would depend on prior immigration status based on Commonwealth law. They thought this would be difficult to implement because access to comprehensive records is not guaranteed.

"So, what we are doing with the Stabilization Act is to make implementation depend on prior federal immigration status for which the department does have comprehensive records."

Long-term workers are defined in Public Law 115-218 as persons who have been granted Commonwealth-Only Transitional Worker, or CW, permits in all of fiscal years 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018.

Sablan's Workforce Stabilization Act also provides status to foreign investors, who were first admitted under Commonwealth law, but who now have E-2C, Commonwealth-Only Investor, visas issued by the U.S.

Sablan has been working for years to give long-term workers and investors, and other groups, who were overlooked by the original federal immigration law, a more certain future. In 2011, he introduced H.R. 1466 and had it favorably reported by the House Natural Resources and Judiciary Committees. Opposition from the Fitial administration, however, prevented a vote on Sablan's bill by the House.

"You have to be persistent," Sablan said. "In Congress, you cannot give up if you want to succeed.

"And getting permanent status for long-term workers and investors is a goal that will benefit those individuals, as well as our economy.

"Granting improved status to long-term workers would relieve their employers of the expense and anxiety of applying for CW permits. It would reduce the number of CW workers we need. And improved status would finally give those workers and the investors, who were granted admission under Commonwealth immigration law, the security of knowing they can be permanent members of our community.

"These are people we know and whose value to our economy is well established," Sablan added.

Although Sablan does not expect his Workforce Stabilization Act to move in the current Congress, he wants to be ready with strong support from a long list of cosponsors when the 116th Congress convenes in January. A Democratic majority in the House of Representatives is expected to act quickly on immigration legislation, to which Sablan could add his bill. ***(PR)***

CUC sending vehicles, work and leak detection personnel to Rota

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is sending vehicles and work crew to Rota to help in cleaning up of debris and put the power system back in place after Typhoon Mangkhut's devastation, according to CUC deputy executive director William B. Gilmore.

Gilmore

In an interview Thursday night, Gilmore said there are some leaks in the water system so they are helping Rota identify them by sending CUC's leak detection crew.

"We offer quite a bit of support to our agency down there," he said.

Several power poles are down on Rota, but he said does not know the exact number.

Gilmore said he believes that CUC has been installing some concrete poles on Rota, but most are wooden poles.

Gilmore said they also offer support on Tinian but the island does not have much of a problem.

He said there were few downed power poles on Tinian.

On Saipan, Gilmore said no power pole fell down, which he attributed to CUC's and Federal Emergency Management Agency's hardening mitigation program.

"It's the result of the hardening that we've been doing and the new concrete poles that we put in place. That helps," he said, adding that the typhoon wasn't so strong and did not last long on Saipan.

"That was our luck," Gilmore said.

Rota lawmaker asks CDA, others for deferment on loan payments

As recovery efforts on Rota continue in the wake of Typhoon Mangkhut, a Rota lawmaker is urging the Commonwealth Development Authority and other private and public loaning entities to defer loan payments for CNMI residents in the next few months.

Sen. Teresita Santos (R-Rota), in a Sep. 14, 2018, letter to CDA board chair Frank Lee San Nicolas Borja, asked the agency to extend a "humanitarian gesture" to loan-payers in the form of a 90-day loan payment deferment program.

"Countless families on the island of Rota have suffered significant damage to their homes and agricultural crops and will require additional time and assistance to start rebuilding their lives in the aftermath of Typhoon Mangkhut," wrote Santos. "Current circumstances have crippled the financial capability of most families on Rota to purchase basic necessities as well as pay loans, mortgages, and other debts they may owe."

She further noted the higher standard of living on Rota compared to the other NMI islands.

She said the loan payment deferment would help ensure that the "welfare and livelihood" of Rota residents along with Saipan and Tinian residents are not "further compromised."

"I seek your continued assistance to expeditiously offer a 90-day loan payment deferment program to Rota and the entire CNMI loan customers that have suffered from the wrath of typhoon Mangkhut," she said.

The CDA chairman has yet to respond.

Santos told *Saipan Tribune* that she issued similar letters to Marianas Public Land Trust board chair Pedro R. Deleon Guerrero and City Trust Bank manager Maria Lourdes Johnson to temporarily ease loan payments for NMI residents. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

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4-cyl, 2.5-liter, Auto, 5-spd, AWD, Bronze, STK#U18-078R
NOW $23,499*
2016 Highlander
4-Door, 4-cyl-, 2.7-liter, Auto 2WD, Jade, STK#U18-077R
NOW $25,199*
2016 4Runner SR5
V6, 4-liter, Auto, 5-spd, 4WD, Silver STK#U18-076R
NOW $28,699*
2013 Tacoma
DC, V6, Auto, 4WD, Red, STK#U18-038T
NOW $28,899*
2016 4Runner SR5
V6, 4-liter, Auto, 4WD, Red STKU18-075R
NOW $28,699*
2015 Nissan Xterra
Pro-4X, V6, Auto, 4WD, Red, STK#U18-035T
WAS $27,399
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COTA evacuates over 200 during Typhoon Mangkhut

The Commonwealth Office on Transit Authority evacuated 221 members of the community to and from designated emergency shelters before, during, and after Typhoon Mangkhut's landfall in the Marianas. According to Alfreda Camacho, special assistant for Public Transportation, there was much prior planning with transit operators, transit information specialists, and section administrative staff before the actual activation on Sunday, Sept. 9, 2018. "Once the official activation notice was made by Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres, COTA already activated its Agency

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority evacuates residents to designated shelters in preparation for the impending landfall of Typhoon Mangkhut last week.

Operations Center with our operations plan of action ready to execute and each of our team members knew which shift and role they would play," Camacho said.

Camacho added that close collaboration with CNMI government agencies enabled COTA's turnaround timeframe. "The willingness to serve and work together during such a critical time like what the CNMI experienced with Typhoon Mangkhut is really what public service is all about," Camacho said.

Torres commended COTA for its foresight, recognizing its operations and management team as Federal Emergency Management Agency-certified Incident Command System responders. "I recognize COTA's role in assisting the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office under FEMA ESF-1 and commend these collaborative efforts while we continue recovery on the island of Rota and strengthen our emergency management and transit services," Torres said.

Torres explained that the Incident Command System is a management system designed to enable effective and efficient domestic incident management by integrating a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure. ICS is normally structured to facilitate activities in five major functional areas: command, operations, planning, logistics, intelligence and investigations, finance and administration.

Camacho further noted that COTA and the Office of the Governor are prioritizing an Americans with Disabilities Act mobility equipped van for Rota and Tinian.

"We are diligently working on this with the Governor's Authorized Representative, HSEM, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Secretary of Finance for a possible emergency solicitation procurement to close that gap of not having any vehicles to assist with persons with disabilities and the elderly," Camacho said.

COTA was created in order to develop a public transportation on Saipan to provide alternative transportation option and is currently located on the second floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Suite 216.

For more information on COTA, visit www.facebook.com/COTASaipan or call (670) 664-2690. ***(COTA)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NOTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: September 18, 2018

NOTICE OF ROUTINE PROGRAM CHANGE REQUEST: Pursuant to 15 CFR § 923.84, notice is hereby given that the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is submitting a Routine Program Change (RPC) request to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office for Coastal Management (NOAA OCM) to amend DCRM regulations codified at NMIAC § 15-10 to reflect minor changes in wording, clarify terms, and reflect updated policies. The RPC also serves to recognize certain policies as enforceable policies of the CNMI CMP for the purposes of CZMA review.

DCRM has determined that these updates constitute a routine program change to DCRM's federally-approved coastal management program because the actions do not make any substantial changes to: (1) uses subject to management; (2) special management areas; (3) boundaries; (4) authorities and organization, or (5) coordination, public involvement, and national interest.

DCRM is requesting that OCM concur with this determination. The full Routine Program Change memo submitted to OCM, which includes the outline of proposed enforceable policies can be accessed on the Federal Consistency page of the DCRM website at: https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/CNMI-DCRM_Ch15-10-Regulations-RPC-request_091818.pdf.

Comments regarding whether this program modification does or does not constitute a routine program change may be submitted to NOAA OCM within three weeks of the date of this notice. Please send all comments to:
Ms. Joelle Gore, Chief
Stewardship Division
Office for Coastal Management
NOAA National Ocean Service
1305 East West Hwy., Room 11321
Silver Spring, MD 20910

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact DCRM at 670-664-8510 or FedCon@dcrm.gov.mp.

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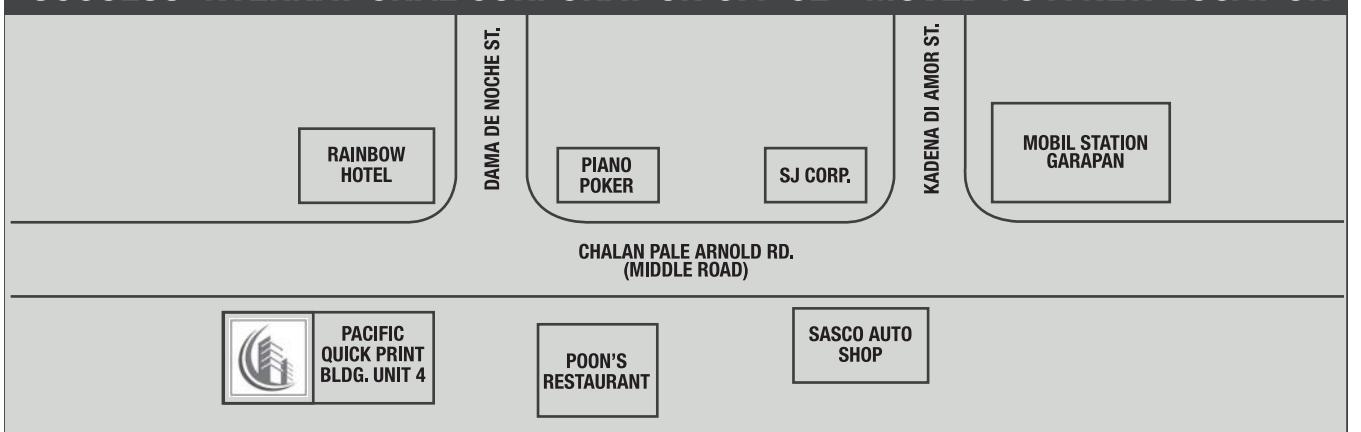

SUCCESS INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION
NEW HOPE CORPORATION
PMB 778 Box 10003 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No.: 322-1558 / Fax: 322-1548 / Cell: 287-1698
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Right now, Japan market share only accounts for 7 pct. of CNMI tourists

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Although the Japan market accounts for only 7 percent of tourists in the CNMI, the Marianas Visitors Authority is actually spending more on an annual basis to market the Commonwealth in Japan compared to MVA's promotional expenses in South Korea and China.

MVA managing director Christopher Concepcion pointed this out in emphasizing that MVA will never give up on Japan, since this is the market that started the tourism industry in the CNMI.

Concepcion said they continue to market the CNMI aggressively in Japan and Korea as is shown in the many social media posts and press releases they send to local and international media daily and weekly.

In the global tourism industry, he said, out of sight means out of mind, and that they cannot afford to lose the CNMI's presence in Japan, Korea, or any other source market because it will be doubly expensive to regain that presence once it is lost.

"We are very cognizant of this," he said.

The MVA earlier disclosed that South Korea takes the lead in the CNMI's tourism market share at 48 percent, followed by China, which accounts for 38 percent market share, and Japan at 7 percent.

The other markets make up the remaining 7 percent.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has announced that Skymark Airlines plans to launch flights from Tokyo to Saipan, which the MVA believes will be the start of the revitalization of the Japan market.

The MVA's goal is to have a much more diversified base of 30 percent coming from Japan, 30 percent from Korea, 30 percent from China, and 10 percent from Taiwan, Russia, and everywhere else.

Officials of SK Telecom, IT&E, and Citadel Pacific Ltd. gather for a signing ceremony on July 26, 2018 at the IT&E headquarters in Harmon. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SK Telecom joins forces with IT&E

IT&E, the largest wireless provider in Guam and the Marianas, announced yesterday a strategic partnership with SK Telecom, South Korea's largest mobile operator, with around 30 million mobile subscribers, which is about 50 percent of the total Korean market.

SK Telecom and IT&E will work hand in hand to not only extend network coverage but also to double broadband capacity in the next 18 months.

Looking many years into the future, IT&E has already secured 1150MHz bandwidth in the 28GHz frequency band for 5G and aims to launch the first-ever 5G service in the region in 2019.

Furthermore, SK Telecom and IT&E have agreed to allow SK Telecom subscribers to use communications services at domestic rates while travelling to Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

IT&E's partnership with SK Telecom will not only improve the Korean tourist experience in Guam and the CNMI but will also bring a company of SK Telecom's size and economic reach into the Marianas' regional business community.

The partnership represents an opportunity for both IT&E and SK Telecom.

Jose Ricardo Delgado, president and chief executive officer, Citadel Pacific Ltd., the parent company of IT&E, said that SK Telecom is "recognized worldwide as a leader in the telecom field, and we are so proud for them to have chosen IT&E as their vehicle to expand outside Korea into the Pacific region. Given the accelerating trend of Korean tourists into Guam and Saipan outpacing those from all other countries, this investment bodes well for IT&E and SK Telecom's customers to service the requirements both ways."

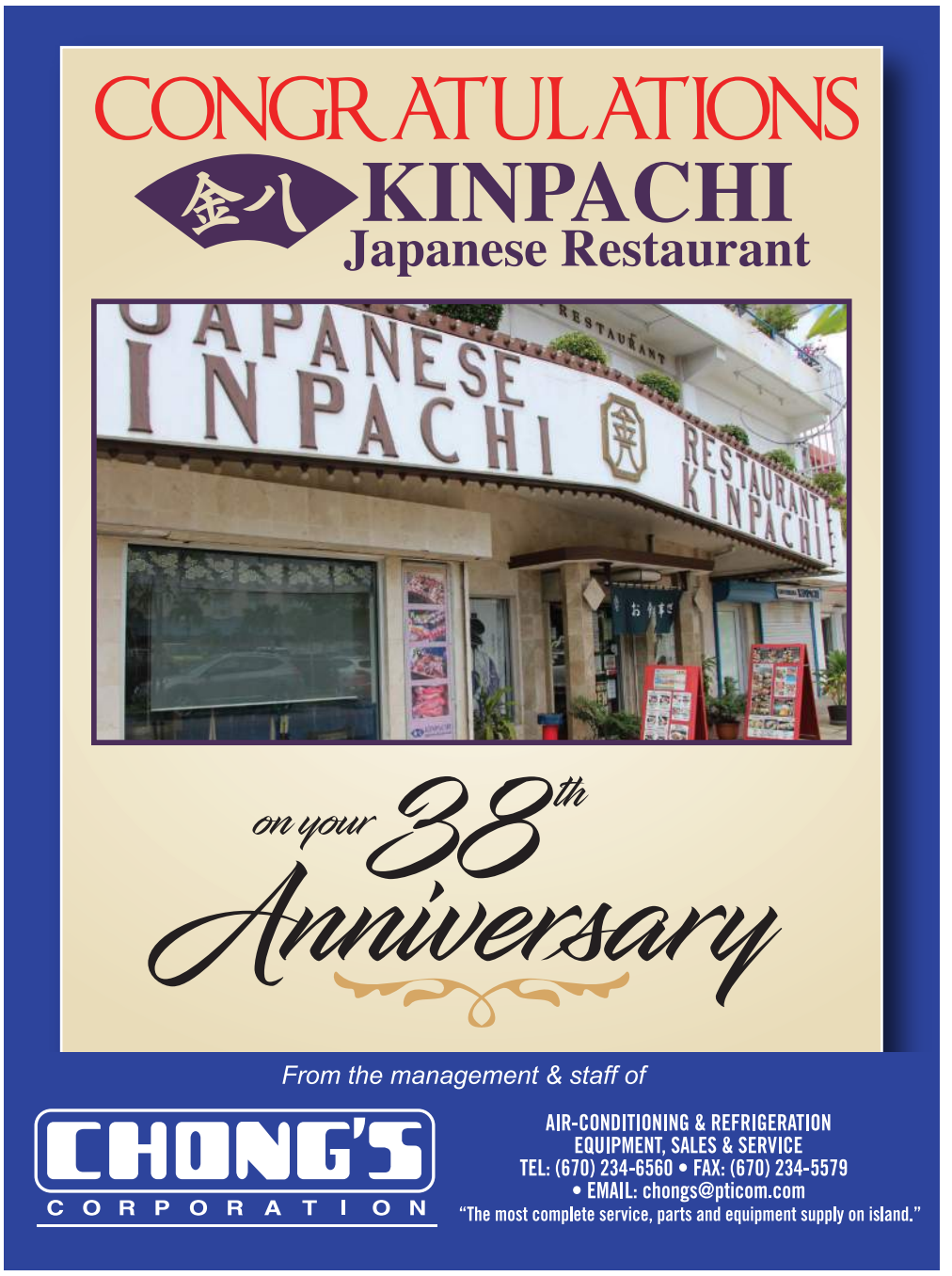
From a technical and operational perspective, IT&E feels very strongly about the benefits of this partnership.

"SK Telecom's technology, leadership and engineering strength coupled with IT&E's continuing commitment to our customer and community will provide a powerful combination to deliver world class service and customer satisfaction to our local, tourist, and military customers," said James Oehlerking, chief executive officer of IT&E.

For its part, SK Telecom looks forward to expanding its global presence and sharing its expertise. Park Jung-Ho, SK Telecom president and chief executive officer, said that SK Telecom is "very pleased to work with the Delgado family to expand IT&E. Through collaboration with IT&E, SK Telecom will contribute to the advancement of IT&E's communications networks in Guam and the CNMI, while providing greater benefits to SK Telecom's subscribers who visit the region."

The partnership represents an investment of $33 million by SK Telecom. With its investment in IT&E, SK Telecom has become the second largest shareholder of IT&E.

SK Telecom was established in March 1984, leading the development of the global mobile telecommunications industry by launching CDMA (2G), WCDMA (3G) and LTE-A (4G) for the first time in the world. It belongs to the SK Holdings Group, which had revenues of over $84 billion in 2017, and is the second largest Korean conglomerate. ***(PR)***



Kilili takes laid off US workers issue to Acosta

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has raised the case of U.S. workers laid off at the Saipan casino site to U.S. Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta.

Sablan, together with Virginia Rep. Bobby Scott, the lead Democrat on the House Education and the Workforce Committee, wrote Acosta last Thursday asking for a complete explanation for why his department claims it cannot prevent employers at the casino construction project from laying off U.S. workers and replacing them with foreign workers with H-2B visas.

"I very much appreciate… Scott joining me in my effort to help the U.S. workers who were 'temporarily' laid off at the casino construction site in July," Sablan said. "They are still out of work, yet construction continues using foreign workers with H-2B visas. That is not right."

Sablan alerted the Labor Department in July, as soon as he learned the U.S. construction workers had been laid off. But in conference calls on July 19 and Aug. 8 and in a face-to-face meeting with Assistant Secretary of Labor Katherine Brunett McGuire and other Labor officials on July 26, Sablan was repeatedly told that the department lacked legal authority to protect U.S. workers from being replaced by H-2B visa holders.

Sablan was not convinced. "To get H-2B visas employers must promise that U.S. workers will not lose their jobs, and Labor is supposed to enforce that promise. That has not happened," Sablan said, "so I am joining forces with…Scott and raising this issue to the secretary's level.

In their letter Sablan and Scott ask for a formal explanation from the secretary of his department's position that it cannot enforce employer nondisplacement obligations under 20 CFR 655.22. Sablan asked Acosta how the department is interpreting "similarly employed U.S. worker" in this section of the code of federal regulations and how the department believes its position adheres to the Immigration and Nationality Act.

The department's reluctance to protect U.S. workers from H-2B visa holders could also reflect how it will enforce Sablan's newly enacted Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act. The Act, Public Law 115-218, requires that every employer who wants to apply for a Commonwealth-Only Transitional Worker (CW) permit must first obtain a temporary labor certification from the U.S. Department of Labor. The agency must certify that no U.S. worker is able and available for the job the CW worker will fill, the same requirement needed to get an H-2B visa for a foreign worker.

"After all we did in the U.S. Workforce Act to incentivize hiring U.S. workers, we cannot stand by now while foreign workers take over good-paying U.S. jobs." Sablan said.

At the time of the layoffs, the Saipan Tribune reported they were the result of renegotiation of the construction project contract between Pacific Rim Constructors and Hong Kong-based Imperial Pacific International. IPI was "optimistic" that changes to their contract with Pacific Rim would be resolved within a week. (Construction continues even with Pacific Rim workers out. July 27, 2018)

In addition to his meetings with Labor officials, Sablan also added a privileged statement to the congressional record on Aug. 14. "Even half-finished, the Imperial Pacific International casino has lifted the economy of the Marianas. So, local news has focused on reassuring the public that work to complete the casino and its associated resort would continue," Sablan noted. "But these reassurances mean little to the U.S. workers who have lost their jobs, or to their families.

"It also raises the question of why the U.S. Department of Labor, as it has reported to me, issued 1,668 foreign labor certifications to Imperial Pacific International to hire the H–2B visa holders, who are now taking the jobs of U.S. workers in apparent contravention of U.S. labor law." The complete text of Sablan's congressional record statement is available at https://www.congress.gov/crec/2018/08/14/CREC-2018-08-14-pt1-PgE1147-5.pdf

The complete text of the Sablan/Scott letter to Acosta is available at https://sablan.house.gov/sites/sablan.house.gov/files/documents/letter-to-dol-re-h2b.pdf. ***(PR)***

Pacifica extends art contest deadline

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc. is extending the submission deadline for its annual art contest, Pacifica Art Contest, from Sept. 21 to Sept. 28.

The art contest will, once again, help usher in the holiday season by presenting fascinating local artworks produced by young artists. The contest will give children, ages 6 through 17, an opportunity to share and display their artistic skills and talents.

Submissions must be in original state and must include the artist's full name, age, school name, telephone number, mailing address, and email address.

Art pieces will be judged on four criteria: creativity and originality, quality of art piece, clarity of theme, and presentation.

The winners of the contest will be publicly announced on Oct. 19, 2018, and will be entitled to a $200 cash prize.

For additional details on Pacifica Art Contest, call (670) 234-6267/7722/7310 or log on to www.pacificains.com/artcontest for details. ***(PR)***

Contestants must create an original art piece that is centered around the art contest's slogan "Rest assured it's Christmas." Dimensions must not exceed 18"x 24". Acceptable medians (or materials) include water-based paint, oil-based paint, pastels, and crayons. Pieces may also be hand-drawn.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW18-IFB-024

ROUTE 10 HAZARD ELIMINATION PROJECT, ROTA

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Route 10 Hazard Elimination Project, Rota** Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after September 11, 2018 at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **September 28, 2018, 9:00 a.m. local time** at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **October 9, 2018** to **Ms. Crystal C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Ms. Crystal C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening**.

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW-18-IFB-024". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time October 12, 2018**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, October 12, 2018,** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cnmidof.net. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **October 12, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **October 23, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **9:00 a.m. local time, October 26, 2018**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **9:00 a.m. local time, on October 12, 2018**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Two Hundred Seventy (270) working days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed according to Table 108-1 of the Standard Specifications for Construction of Roads and Bridges on Federal Project, FP-03.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

PETER P. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
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www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NOTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: September 18, 2018

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resource Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination request from the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) regarding the proposed renovation and expansion of the Koblerville Youth Learning Center. The project, located in Koblerville, Saipan, will be funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). More information about the project, including the proposed scope of work, can be accessed via the DCRM website at https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/SOW-Koblerville-Youth-Learning-Center-Expansion-Project.pdf.

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan.

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resource Management at FedCon@dcrm.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for seven (7) days, starting on September 18, 2018 and ending on September 25, 2018, in order to give the public a sufficient opportunity to develop and provide comments on whether the proposed project is consistent with management program enforceable policies. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.

2018 Green Gala

Photos by ERWIN ENCINARES

Roberta Guerrero, left, executive director for the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, shares a few words as the MINA board looks on.

Hand-woven baskets and other cultural items are on sale in the silent auction during the 2018 Green Gala.

Bob Coldeen delivers his award-winning poem, *Saipan Glory Day*, during the 2018 Green Gala.

About 200 guests attend the sold-out 2018 Green Gala of the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance.

MINA board chair Fran Castro presents Kathy Yuknavage with the 2018 Environmental Champion award.

Members of the Mt. Carmel School Eco Club accepts the 2018 Green Hero Award.

Chris Fryling, center, shares a few words as he represents N15 Architects, the recipient of the 2018 Green Business of the Year award.

2018 Miss Marianas Celine Cabrera poses for a photo with Board of Education director Herman Guerrero and other guests at the 2018 Green Gala.

Partygoers enjoy the night of the 2018 Green Gala Friday evening at the Fiesta Resort & Spa's Hibiscus Hall.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The FDA's vape attack

Many teens have wised up to the disastrous health effects of cigarettes. They don't—and won't ever—smoke. Unfortunately, a fast-rising number of high schoolers and even younger teens have started vaping in the past few years.

Young people may think e-cigarettes are less dangerous than tobacco products—that's true—and they're attracted to the sweet but nicotine-laced vapors they inhale. Taking a furtive hit from a dispenser that resembles a pen or a lipstick tube is easier and less noxious than lighting up a cigarette.

But teen use has ballooned into an "epidemic," warns Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb. On Wednesday, he announced a major crackdown against retailers for allegedly selling vaping products to those younger than 18. He also warned manufacturers that they face more draconian action unless they prove they can keep their products away from underage consumers: The agency could ban some or all flavored products used in the e-cigs.

What prompted Gottlieb's sudden call to arms? One possibility is new statistics that show an alarming rise in vaping. The FDA has unpublished preliminary data that shows a 75 percent increase in e-cigarette use among high school students this year compared with 2017, The Washington Post reports. "We cannot allow a whole new generation to become addicted to nicotine," Gottlieb said.

Yes, we know e-cigarettes can help current tobacco smokers quit. That's a tremendous health benefit for them and their families.

But vaping also can start teens on the self-destructive path toward cigarettes. A study of 12- to 17-year-olds found that those who vape are twice as likely to become regular smokers within a year, according to a study in JAMA Pediatrics.

Cracking down on retailers and marketers that sell to minors illegally sends a powerful message to the retailers. There's another way to crimp this epidemic: Ban the sale of tobacco and e-cigarettes to anyone younger than 21. That's the law in Chicago and some other cities and states. On Aug. 24, however, Gov. Bruce Rauner vetoed a bill that would have raised to 21 from 18 the legal age to buy tobacco or e-cigarette products. We hope legislators override that veto.

Gottlieb's alarm also should resonate in households across America. Parents who may have been relieved that their kids are merely vaping—not smoking—should now be aware of the risks, if they weren't already. Vaping may not be as harmful as cigarettes. But for young people in particular, it's harmful enough.

(c) 2018 *Chicago Tribune*

COME ON, DON'T YOU THINK WE DID A GREAT JOB IN PUERTO RICO?
I'M WAITING FOR AN ANSWER.
3,000 VICTIMS OF HURRICANE MARIA
MIKE SMITH LAS VEGAS SUN

China is not America's next great enemy

By TYLER COWEN
Bloomberg News

Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist. He is a professor of economics at George Mason University and writes for the blog Marginal Revolution. His books include* The Complacent Class: The Self-Defeating Quest for the American Dream. *Readers may email him at tcowen2@bloomberg.net*

If the lack of an external enemy since the end of the Cold War has made America weak and feckless, as some argue, then can the rise of China give America a newfound vigor and sense of purpose? Probably not.

There are several differences between the former Soviet Union and contemporary China which help explain why the U.S.S.R. came across as so much more threatening. The Soviets had a string of leaders who were well-suited to play movie villains. Stalin murdered millions and radiated evil. Khrushchev was more moderate in terms of domestic policy, but in New York he banged his shoe on the table and shouted "We will bury you!" He also moved Soviet nuclear weapons into Cuba. Brezhnev came across as a crusty, malevolent stiff.

Chinese president Xi Jinping, in contrast, looks and acts not much different than many other world leaders. The standing joke in China, though often banned on Chinese social media, is to compare him to Winnie the Pooh because of his posture, his walk and what sometimes appears to be a kind of ambling geniality. As for earlier Chinese leaders, post-Mao, most didn't have much of a profile in the U.S. at all.

When it came to the military, the Soviets maximized bluster through an aggressive posture. Not only did they hold long parades full of military equipment, they also supported Marxists, guerrillas and terrorists around the world. In the 1980s, for instance, the Soviet Union aided insurgent communist forces in El Salvador and Nicaragua, two civil wars in the Americas.

The Chinese, in contrast, extend their influence by trade or by building infrastructure in poorer countries, including in Africa. They prefer cozy and sometimes non-transparent financial relationships with the local autocrats, soft-pedaled so as not to generate suspicion or hostility.

The Chinese have militarized the South China Sea, constructing artificial islands and claiming others, then stationing troops there. But China does all this carefully, taking one small step after another. The Soviets sought to maximize publicity for their adventurist efforts; the Chinese seek to minimize it.

While the Soviets liked to claim their centrally planned economy was outperforming America's capitalist one, most Americans never believed them. China, in contrast, has had many years of 10 percent growth since 1979 and even now is probably growing at around 7 percent a year. That concerns many Americans, and arguably has led to President Donald Trump's trade war against China. But it's not the same kind of fear that comes from the threat of military aggression. And while Chinese economic growth has led to the loss of manufacturing jobs in the U.S., Chinese labor also helps to make iPhones and also many of the cheap goods found in Walmart.

Immigration probably matters too. During the peak of the Cold War in the 1960s and 1970s, most Americans didn't have much contact with Russians, at least not U.S.S.R.-born citizens (Russian Jews migrated to the U.S., but they were not seen as representing the U.S.S.R.). The notion of a Russian was more scary than familiar. In contrast, Chinese and Chinese-Americans are extremely common in the U.S. and have assimilated into American life quite readily.

The underlying philosophies of Soviet Marxism and Leninism were international in nature _ namely, that communism should be exported everywhere, though the particular strategies for doing so could differ. The revolution was supposed to spread to the West. China is explicitly nationalistic, and promotes the notion of being ethnic Chinese. Americans don't fear that China wants to sinocize them in the same way that they worried about Soviet plans to export the revolution and mobilize the American proletariat against the prevailing order. The Chinese geopolitical dream is not revolution or conquest; it is simply a much weaker America. At any rate, China doesn't have much of a history of trying to project military power beyond the confines of Asia.

You might think the Chinese strategies will prove more effective. But when it comes to galvanizing a sense of terrorized urgency in the typical American, the Soviets remain at the top of the leaderboard.

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Dropping my anonymity unlike The Times

By GINA BARRECA
The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is a board of trustees distinguished professor of English literature at University of Connecticut and the author of 10 books. She can be reached at www.ginabarreca.com.

I've been sending anonymous op-ed pieces to The New York Times for my entire life, and none of them has been published. I decided that this would be the right time to get them into print under my own name. I've chosen only the most significant and provocative sections and believe that others will recognize the guts, grit and gravitas behind my willingness to come forward at this moment in history.

Excerpt from a piece written, in utero, in December of 1956, approximately three weeks before my birth: "I am facing a test unlike any other faced by a nearly born modern person. It's not just that the emergence from my mother's womb looms large, or that I am bitterly divided over the prospect of my own independence vs. the fact that of all my current needs are being met by my host parent. The dilemma—which outsiders do not fully grasp—is that it's really, really comfortable here. To be forced into a world that will demand I choose an identity, where I will be confronted by people who make impulsive decisions—some ill-formed and reckless—is daunting. During the months of my tenure within the confines of what some might consider the steadiest and deepest of deep-states, I have learned the most effective modifications for my own position but no longer trust those on the other side. I hope that The New York Times will publish my words but without my name, because I don't have one yet."

Excerpt from a piece written in June of 1958, during the tumultuous time of what elites contemptuously and dismissively referred to as potty training: "There has been much discussion lately concerning the horrors and treachery of my so-called 'leaking.' The whispers I increasingly hear from those who have forgotten the intricate complexities of the world I inhabit—and which, I must remind you, all of us have once inhabited—say that this process needs to be stripped of the false civility and sentimentality surrounding these troubled times. I am not leaking and nor am I withholding, but I am instead reluctant to be sanctioned and boxed into what senior members of management label conventionally acceptable behavior. The autocrats and dictators who insist that certain acts are permissible on a schedule controlled, apparently, by their whims, is frustrating at best. Indeed, I have gone through great lengths to keep any mishaps on my part contained, although these attempts are clearly not always successful. I hope that The New York Times will publish my words but without my name, since I don't want to lord it over my peers that, despite setbacks, I am better at controlling things than others are at this age."

Excerpt from a piece written in October of 1963, during my second month of kindergarten: "Imperious, adversarial, petty and ineffective, my colleagues and I spend much of our time privately admitting our disbelief at the anti-democratic and erratic leadership style demonstrated by the duly-appointed teacher, who seems not to be moored to any discernible first principles. Don't get me wrong. There are bright spots in the near-ceaseless tedium of the classroom. There is finger painting. There is lunch. There is reading of The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Economist and, on Fridays, "Pat The Bunny." The problem with our teacher is that she thinks we're idiots and yet we must appear to accept the role of subordinates even though we, for example, know how to pronounce hard words such as "purple," "spaghetti" and "anonymous" when she does not. We have vowed to do what we can to preserve our integrity as members of the kindergarten despite our teacher's more misguided impulses until class is over. I hope that The New York Times will publish my words but without my name, since I do not want my advancement to the first grade in any way jeopardized by what I know many will consider the heroic bravery of my candid disclosure."

Excerpt from a piece written in September of 2018, after reading "I Am Part of the Resistance" in The New York Times: "Dear New York Times: You are better than this. Sincerely, Gina Barreca."

Bernie Sanders picks the wrong kind of fight with Amazon

By NOAH SMITH
Bloomberg View

Noah Smith is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He was an assistant professor of finance at Stony Brook University, and he blogs at Noahpinion.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, a leader of the democratic socialist movement, is introducing a bill designed to force companies to pay their workers higher wages. The bill is being touted as an attack on Amazon.com Inc.—its name is the Stop Bad Employers by Zeroing Out Subsidies Act, which spells out "Stop BEZOS." That would be Amazon chief Jeff Bezos, the richest person in the world, whose company just passed $1 trillion in market capitalization. Sanders' bill, which would apply to companies with 500 or more employees, would levy a tax equal to 100 percent of certain government benefits (food stamps, housing vouchers, school lunches and Medicaid) received by any workers who earn less than $15 an hour.

To many on the left, Amazon has become a symbol of American inequality, with its owners reaping unprecedented fortunes while its workers often are eligible for means-tested government benefits like food stamps. The median annual compensation of an Amazon worker in the U.S. is $34,123—above the U.S. median personal income, which stood at a little more than $31,000 in 2016. And since personal income also counts government benefits, the typical Amazon worker is actually probably doing even better relative to the median. So Amazon is not actually too terrible on this score. But entry-level wages of $13 an hour and poor working conditions are not a good look for a company whose warehouse jobs are increasingly regarded as the future of work, and whose search for a location for its second headquarters has local governments scrambling obsequiously to please the online retail giant.

Sanders is capitalizing on those bad optics to make an example out of Bezos and Amazon, and to draw attention to the problem of companies relying on the government to pay their workers' bills. But his plan seems to be much more about grandstanding and pointing fingers than about actual solutions to help vulnerable American workers. If it actually became law, the Stop BEZOS Act would almost certainly hurt the working poor. Its goals could be achieved much more simply and effectively by a combination of a higher minimum wage and an increased earned income tax credit.

Suppose you're an employer who pays your workers $13 an hour. The workers also get government benefits that average out to $5 an hour. Under the Stop BEZOS Act, you, the employer, would be charged $5 an hour per employee in tax. How would you respond to this new tax?

One thing you could do is to raise your workers' wages to $15 an hour, in order to no longer be subject to the tax. That's obviously the outcome Sanders would like to achieve. But there are other things you can do as well. You could fire workers who use lots of government benefits—for example, single moms with dependent children—and replace them with teenagers, middle-class part-timers or other workers who won't require you to pay the Sanders tax.

That would hurt vulnerable American workers—the people who need the money the most would be the most likely to be added to the unemployment rolls. It would also make poor Americans unwilling to claim food stamps, Medicaid and other government benefits in the first place, out of fear that they might lose their jobs. Sanders and his allies would obviously try to counter this outcome with vigorous anti-discrimination lawsuits. In practice, this isn't a workable solution; workers tend to win only a very small percent of such lawsuits.

As an employer, a second thing you could do to reduce your tax burden would be to cut wages. Suppose you cut wages for some workers from $13 to $8, but—because food stamps, Medicaid, and other benefits don't rise 1-for-1 as income falls—they only use $6 in benefits after their wages go down. Now your total bill for those workers is $14 an hour ($8 in wages plus $6 in Sanders tax). That's even lower than you'd pay if you raised wages to $15. And of course the workers themselves see big drops in their disposable income.

Either one of these responses would be undesirable—firing workers who use lots of benefits, or cutting wages in order to game the system. In contrast, the best possible scenario—companies raise all workers' wages to at least $15—would be no different from a $15 minimum wage, which Sanders has already introduced as a separate bill. In other words, the Stop BEZOS Act would either be redundant (if the higher minimum wage were adopted) or be terrible for the welfare of the working poor.

That suggests that Sanders and his allies either haven't thought through the economics of their bill, or—more likely—don't really care. It seems like more of a marketing stunt—an attempt to erode the social status of big businesses and their rich owners, by accusing them of taking corporate welfare. But if people realize that Sanders' measure would harm and potentially stigmatize working poor people who receive government benefits, the move could backfire. Also, Sanders' attempt to paint government benefits as corporate welfare might ring hollow with voters, given that most of those benefits are already partly paid for via taxes on high earners:

A better approach would be to simply raise the minimum wage to $15, or preferably to a living wage based on the local cost of living. The government should also raise the earned income tax credit, which is essentially a government subsidy enco [[[- mmnkuraging companies to pay their workers higher wages. An expanded EITC—which Sanders ally Congressman Ro Khanna of California supports—might be the kind of thing that Sanders regards as corporate welfare. But in the end, if the dollars are going into the pockets of the poor, the question of how they get there is kind of academic.

Democratic socialists have focused a lot on optics and on high-profile denunciations of the rich. But in the long term, promoting

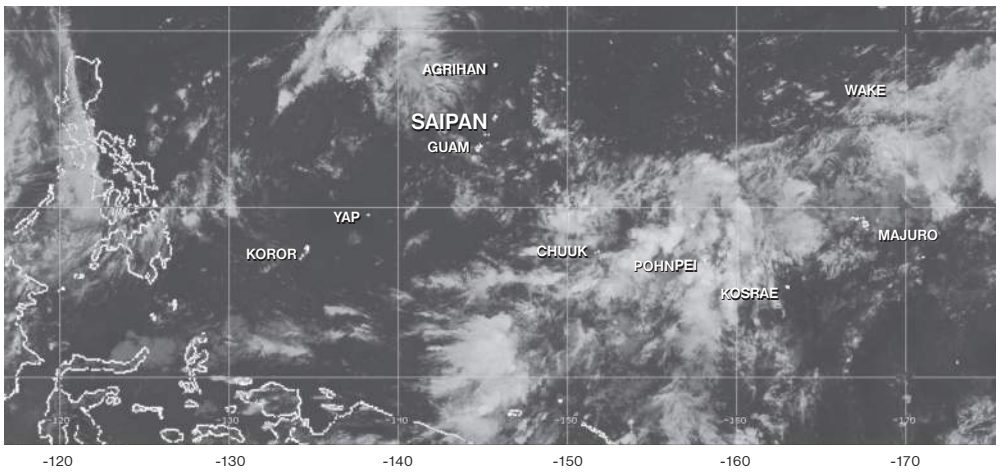
HONORING THE DEPARTED
BY JOE "GOODBYE, MAVERICK" FOURNIER
TRADITIONALLY, BY EXECUTIVE ORDER, THE U.S. FLAG IS FLOWN AT HALF-MAST TO HONOR THE PASSING OF A PROMINENT POLITICIAN, SOMETIMES FOR AS LONG AS 30 DAYS.
HOWEVER, WITH THIS ADMINISTRATION, THE AMOUNT OF TIME IS IN DIRECT CORRELATION TO THE PRESIDENT'S AMOUNT OF SEETHING PETTINESS TOWARD THE DECEASED, MAKING THIS TRADITION NOT SO MUCH AN HONORING...
...AS IT IS A KIND OF PRESIDENTIAL MOOD RING.
joe@joefournierstudos.com

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲85° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:29 AM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Little change made to the forecast. Updated winds in the forecast with new model data. A weak ridge of high pressure will decrease the chance of showers today through Tuesday. Scatterometer data from late Sunday night showed a surface trough stretching across Chuuk to north of Pohnpei. Models show the trough moving slowly westward through the week with a circulation eventually developing on the trough. This circulation will be just south of Guam by Wednesday. A surface trough will extend north of the circulation and models agree that the trough will pass over the Marianas on Thursday. GFS hints scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms Thursday and Friday. ECMWF is drier with only patchy showers over the Marianas. Other models also paint a similar picture that the ECMWF does, that is just patchy showers. Anticipate the circulation and trough at least generating mostly cloudy skies, isolated showers and thunderstorms Tuesday night through Friday night. Earlier forecast only had the isolated showers and thunderstorms through to Thursday night. Models seem to want to keep the activity over the area a little longer so extended it another day.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	88° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	64° / 55°
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	81° / 63°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Windy	73° / 63°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	80° / 63°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Melbourne	Showers	57° / 41°
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 78°
New York	Thunderstorms	80° / 68°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	82° / 70°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	84° / 59°
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	77° / 70°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	81° / 64°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	93° / 71°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	59° / 51°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	79° / 64°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	77° / 64°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	79° / 68°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:49 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.54
8:35 AM	LOW TIDE	0.21
4:09 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.57
9:25 PM	LOW TIDE	1.17

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:16 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:15 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:15 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:14 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:13 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:13 AM	1:28 PM
Wednesday	-	1:02 AM	2:16 PM
Thursday	-	1:51 AM	3:02 PM
Friday	-	2:40 AM	3:46 PM
Saturday	-	3:30 AM	4:28 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 6, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	8:45am	9:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA117	7:00am	7:45am	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Florence likely to expose gaps in flood insurance

AP
A storm damaged home off of Brices Creek Road, is painted "Go Away Florence" with American flags after rains and storm surge from Florence flooded Brices Creek area neighborhoods, Sunday, Sept. 16, 2018 in New Bern, N.C.

NEW YORK (AP)—The number of Americans with flood insurance is on the rise, yet Hurricane Florence is likely to make it painfully clear that too many homeowners in the Carolinas and other vulnerable regions remain unprotected.

An analysis of federal flood insurance records by The Associated Press found there were roughly 5.1 million active flood insurance policies in the U.S. as of July 31, up from 4.94 million a year earlier.

The Carolinas had modest gains—a 2.5 percent increase in South Carolina and a 3.5 percent increase in North Carolina.

But large gaps in coverage remain. South Carolina is the second-highest insured state for flooding, with roughly 65 percent of properties in flood hazard areas insured. But in North Carolina, where forecasters say the storm might bring the most destructive round of flooding in state history, flood coverage is less common, with only 35 percent of at-risk properties insured.

After blowing ashore as a hurricane with 90 mph (145 kph) winds, Florence virtually parked itself much of the weekend atop the Carolinas as it pulled warm water from the ocean and hurled it onshore. Storm surges, flash floods and winds scattered destruction widely.

Most of the gains observed in the federal flood insurance data over the past 12 months occurred in Texas, with about 145,000 new policies. Insurance experts say that Hurricane Harvey, which brought tremendous flood damage to Texas and Louisiana late last summer, helped increase public awareness that homeowners need flood insurance.

"That's terrific. Nothing sells flood insurance like a storm," said Robert Hunter, who ran the National Flood Insurance Program in the 1970s.

Still, federal officials say there are too many Americans in vulnerable areas who lack flood insurance—even after storms such as Sandy, Matthew and Harvey caused widespread property damage and financial losses with storm surge and rainfall. A look at the five-year and 10-year trends shows a decline in the number of flood insurance policies nationwide.

Property insurance typically doesn't cover flooding, and flood insurance remains by and large a federal government program run by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA.

Support and understanding is sometimes the wrong way to go

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. *Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @ officecoach.*

Q: A very challenging employee recently transferred into my group from another department. "Mark" has worked in several areas of the company and has a reputation for being hard to manage. On some days, he is pleasant, productive and easy to work with, but at other times he will suddenly become rude and hostile.

Since Mark is new to our group and still adjusting to his job, I have tried to be supportive and understanding. However, his outbursts seem to be getting worse, and my other employees try to avoid working with him. What should I do about this?

A. Sadly, you appear to be the latest victim in a management game of "pass the buck". Instead of taking on the tough task of dealing with difficult employees, some cowardly managers simply transfer the trouble elsewhere. However, now that Mark is your responsibility, your current approach may be perpetuating the problem.

Although your "supportive and understanding" strategy is undoubtedly well-intentioned, Mark will interpret this as acceptance of his disruptive behavior. Therefore, it's time to shift your management style to "firm and direct". When confronted with serious performance issues, managers must convey clear expectations about the need for change.

To begin this corrective action discussion, describe the work-related problems created by Mark's aggressive behavior. Explain that he must learn to express disagreements constructively, and then describe the penalty that will follow another angry outburst. Ask him to develop a written plan for solving this problem, and schedule a time to discuss it.

Once you and Mark have agreed on action steps, establish a schedule for assessing his progress. If he improves, praise him for his efforts. But if nothing changes, enforce the stated consequences. Otherwise, Mark will get the message that you weren't really serious, and you'll be right back where you started.

Q: I recently started a new job and can see many ways to improve operations. However, my team leader gets defensive whenever I suggest ways to increase efficiency. "Jackie" has worked in this business for 19 years and seems very set in her ways.

So far, Jackie hasn't used any of my ideas, even though they would be easy to implement. How can I get her to be more open to change?

A: Let's take a moment to consider Jackie's point of view. After comfortably performing her job for almost two decades, she is suddenly being told by a newcomer that she's doing it all wrong. So are you really surprised that she's resisting your proposals?

Before suggesting additional improvements, invest some time in building this relationship and learning about the business. To show that you value her years of experience, ask Jackie about customers, products, the history of the company or anything else of interest. Once she feels that you appreciate her knowledge, she's more likely to welcome your ideas.

Finally, when making suggestions, try to choose your words carefully. Saying "you could do that more efficiently" sounds like personal criticism. But stating "I think we might be able to make the billing process more efficient" keeps the focus on the work.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Co-founder of Salesforce buys Time magazine for $190 million

WASHINGTON (AP)—Time Magazine is being sold by Meredith Corp. to Marc Benioff, a co-founder of Salesforce, and his wife, it was announced Sunday. Meredith announced that it was selling Time magazine for $190 million in cash to Benioff, one of four co-founders of Salesforce, a cloud computing pioneer. Meredith had completed the purchase of Time along with other publications of Time Inc. earlier this year. The Benioffs are purchasing Time personally, and the transaction is unrelated to Salesforce.com, where Benioff is chairman and co-CEO and co-founder. The announcement by Meredith said that the Benioffs would not be involved in the day-to-day operations or journalistic decisions at Time. Those decisions will continue to be made by Time's current executive leadership team, the announcement said. "We're pleased to have found such passionate buyers in Marc and Lynne Benioff for the Time brand," Meredith president and CEO Tom Harty said in a statement. "For over 90 years, Time has been at the forefront of the most significant events and impactful stories that shape our global conversation."

UK leader: Talk of leadership during Brexit 'irritating'

LONDON (AP)—British Prime Minister Theresa May concedes that she gets "irritated" by the debate over her leadership during the difficult Brexit negotiations. She told the BBC in an interview scheduled to be broadcast Monday that she is concerned for the country's future, not her own, as talks about Britain's upcoming exit from the European Union continue. May faces a split in her Conservative Party, with some influential figures preferring a more complete break with the EU than she is advocating. Roughly 50 hard-liners met Tuesday night to discuss her possible ouster. In the interview, May said the leadership talk can be distracting. "I get a little bit irritated, but this debate is not about my future. This debate is about the future of the people of the U.K. and the future of the United Kingdom," she said. "That's what I'm focused on, and that's what we should all be focused on." The opposition Labour Party is also increasingly divided over the Brexit issue. London Mayor Sadiq Khan broke ranks on Sunday with party leader Jeremy Corbyn to publicly back a second referendum of whether Britain should go forward with plans to leave the EU.

Wisconsin to hit highest loss of dairy farms since 2013

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—Wisconsin is on pace for losing the most dairy farms this year since 2013. The state Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection says Wisconsin lost 47 dairy farms in August alone, the Wisconsin Public Radio reported. There were fewer than 8,400 licensed dairy producers at the beginning of this month, which is 429 fewer than at the start of the year, according to the data. The decline is the biggest one in four years, when the state lost 434 farms in the first eight months of 2013. The decline isn't surprising given the current market and long-term trend toward industry consolidation, said Mike North, president of the Dairy Business Association. "There's lots of motivating factors in this but it's a trend that's been going for my entire lifetime," he said. North also said price reactions to new tariffs on U.S. dairy products have led some farmers to leave the industry early this year. But for some farms, low milk prices for more than three years just became too much, said Shelly Mayer, executive director of Professional Daily Producers.

Nation

Flooding fears surge as rivers rise; Wilmington cut off

AP
Vehicles exit Interstate 40 outside Wilmington, N.C., after damage from Hurricane Florence cut off the city Sunday, Sept. 16, 2018.

WILMINGTON, N.C. (AP)—Catastrophic flooding from Florence spread across the Carolinas on Sunday, with roads to Wilmington cut off by the epic deluge and muddy river water swamping entire neighborhoods miles inland. "The risk to life is rising with the angry waters," Gov. Roy Cooper declared as the storm's death toll climbed to 17.

The storm continued to crawl westward, dumping more than 30 inches (75 centimeters) of rain in spots since Friday, and fears of historic flooding grew. Tens of thousands were ordered evacuated from communities along the state's steadily rising rivers—with the Cape Fear, Little River, Lumber, Waccamaw and Pee Dee rivers all projected to burst their banks.

In Wilmington , with roads leading in and out of the city underwater and streams still swelling upward, residents waited for hours outside stores and restaurants for basic necessities like water. Police guarded the door of one store, and only 10 people were allowed inside at a time.

Woody White, chairman of the board of commissioners of New Hanover County, said officials were planning for food and water to be flown into the coastal city of nearly 120,000 people.

"Our roads are flooded," he said. "There is no access to Wilmington."

About 70 miles (115 kilometers) away from the coast, residents near the Lumber River stepped from their homes directly into boats floating in their front yards; river forecasts showed the scene could be repeated in towns as far as 250 miles (400 kilometers) inland as waters rise for days.

Downgraded overnight to a tropical depression, Florence was still massive. But with radar showing parts of the storm over six Southeastern states and flood worries spreading into southern Virginia and West Virginia, North and South Carolina were still in the bull's-eye.

Half way around the world, meanwhile, Typhoon Mangkhut barreled into southern China on Sunday after lashing the Philippines with strong winds and heavy rain that left dozens dead. More than 2.4 million people were evacuated from China's southern Guangdong province ahead of the massive typhoon, the strongest to hit the region in nearly two decades.

In North Carolina, fears of what could be the worst flooding in the state's history led officials to order tens of thousands to evacuate, though it wasn't clear how many had fled or even could. The head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Brock Long, said officials were focused on finding people and rescuing them.

"We'll get through this. It'll be ugly, but we'll get through it," Long told NBC's "Meet The Press."

President Donald Trump said federal emergency workers, first responders and law enforcement officials were "working really hard." As the storm "begins to finally recede, they will kick into an even higher gear. Very Professional!" he declared in a tweet.

The storm's death toll climbed to at least 17 when a 3-month-old child was killed when a tree fell across a mobile home in North Carolina. Earlier, officials said three people died in separate, weather-related traffic accidents in South Carolina.

Victor Merlos was overjoyed to find a store open for business in Wilmington since he had about 20 relatives staying at his apartment, which still had power. He spent more than $500 on cereal, eggs, soft drinks and other necessities, plus beer.

"I have everything I need for my whole family," said Merlos. Nearby, a Waffle House restaurant limited breakfast customers to one biscuit and one drink, all take-out, with the price of $2 per item.

Kenneth Campbell had donned waterproof waders intending to check out his home in Lumberton , but he didn't bother when he saw the Coast Guard and murky waters in his neighborhood.

"I'm not going to waste my time. I already know," he said.

As rivers swelled, state regulators and environmental groups were monitoring the threat from gigantic hog and poultry farms located in low-lying, flood-prone areas.

The industrial-scale farms contain vast pits of animal feces and urine that can pose a significant pollution threat if they are breached or inundated by floodwaters. In past hurricanes, flooding at dozens of farms also left hundreds of thousands of dead hogs, chickens and other decomposing livestock bobbing in floodwaters.

Stream gauges across the region showed water levels rising steadily, with forecasts calling for rivers to crest Sunday and Monday at or near record levels. The Defense Department said about 13,500 military personnel had been assigned to help relief efforts.

Florence death toll at 17, including 3-month-old

The death toll attributed to Florence stands at 17, including 11 in North Carolina and six in South Carolina.

■ 30-year-old Rhonda R. Hartley died early Sunday after driving a pickup truck into standing water near Gilbert, South Carolina, losing control and hitting a tree, according to the South Carolina Department of Public Safety.

■ A 3-month-old baby boy died when a large pine tree fell atop a mobile home, splitting it in the middle, according to Police Capt. Jon Leatherwood in Gaston County, North Carolina. Leatherwood said the boy's father and mother were home but were not hurt.

■ 42-year-old Jeffrey B. Youngren of Elgin, South Carolina, died Sunday when a pickup truck hit a bridge piling in Kershaw County, said Coroner David West, who added that weather "played a big part" in the death.

■ 23-year-old Michael Dalton Prince died Sunday after the truck he was riding in lost control on a flooded two-lane road in Georgetown County, South Carolina, said Coroner Kenny Johnson. The driver and another passenger escaped after the truck landed upside down in a flooded ditch.

■ 63-year-old Mark Carter King and 61-year-old Debra Collins Rion of Loris, South Carolina, died of carbon monoxide poisoning from running a generator indoors, authorities said

■ A husband and wife died in a Fayetteville, North Carolina, house fire Friday

■ A mother and her 8-month-old child were killed when a massive tree crushed their brick house Friday in Wilmington, North Carolina

■ An 81-year-old man died while trying to evacuate Wayne County, North Carolina, on Friday

■ A 78-year-old man was electrocuted in the rain while trying to connect extension cords for a generator in Lenoir County, North Carolina

■ A 77-year old man died after he went outside to check on his hunting dogs and was blown down by strong winds

■ Three people died in Duplin County, North Carolina, because of flash flooding and swift water on roadways

■ 61-year-old Amber Dawn Lee died late Friday when the vehicle she was driving struck a tree near the town of Union, South Carolina

Authorities say the storm did not cause some other deaths that occurred during Florence in North Carolina: a woman who died of undetermined causes in a shelter, a woman who suffered a heart attack at home during the storm, and a couple whose apparent murder-suicide was investigated during hurricane conditions in Otway. ***(AP)***

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Man in a wheelchair charged with killing 3 relatives

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—A man in a wheel chair has been charged with fatally shooting his mother, grandmother and sister Sunday morning at a home in Mississippi's capital city, authorities said. The Jackson Police Department said in a statement that Maurice Forte, 22, is facing three counts of murder in connection with the deaths. Police said officers went to a home around 11 a.m. after receiving a call about someone being held against their will. When they arrived, they found a man in a wheelchair just outside the home with a firearm near him, according to the statement. Police said the man, identified as Forte, told them he had shot someone. In the back of the home, police found three women with multiple gunshot wounds. Each was pronounced dead at the scene.

ICE agent in Oregon arrested on sodomy charges

MEDFORD, Ore. (AP)—The Oregon State Police says that a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent has been arrested on multiple counts of sodomy, the Oregonian/oregonlive.com reported. Officials said a statement that Blake V. Northway, a 55-year-old who lives in Medford, was taken into custody Thursday after a joint investigation between the immigration agency and state police, the newspaper reported. The state police says Northway has been "relieved of all authority" and will be on leave until the investigation is complete. The Oregonian reports that court documents say Northway is accused of sexually abusing an underage female relative between 2009 and 2013. The newspaper reports that officials said the charges were not related to Northway's work with ICE. He is in custody at the Jackson County Jail in lieu of $1 million bail.

Grizzlies suspected in fatal Wyoming attack trapped, killed

JACKSON, Wyo. (AP)—Wyoming officials have trapped and killed two grizzly bears they believe killed a hunting outfitter and injured his client. Wyoming Game and Fish Department regional supervisor Brad Hovinga said Sunday the grizzlies that were killed matched the description of those that killed 37-year-old outfitter Mark Uptain. Uptain's body was found Saturday in the Teton Wilderness east of Grand Teton National Park. Corey Chubon of Florida had leg, chest and arm injuries but was released from a hospital. Hovinga suspects the bears were a sow and its grown cub. He tells the Jackson Hole News & Guide the bears weren't behaving normally. The men planned to retrieve an elk Chubon had killed. The bears apparently weren't feeding on the elk or guarding the meat. The attack is still under investigation.

Asia

Mangkhut weakens to tropical storm after plowing into China

HONG KONG (AP)—Mangkhut weakened from a typhoon to a tropical storm as it moved deeper into southern China on Monday, leaving death and destruction from Hong Kong to the Philippines.

The storm was still affecting southern China's coast and the provinces of Guangdong, Guangxi and Hainan and rain and strong winds were expected to continue through Tuesday.

■■■

HONG KONG (AP)—Philippine and Chinese authorities say the death toll from a typhoon has risen to at least 69 with dozens missing.

■■■

Hong Kong residents were told to stay away from the coastline and be on alert for occasional gales. Bus, ferry and rail services were suspended and almost 900 flights were canceled at the city's airport, one of the world's busiest. The South China Morning Post said Hong Kong's hospitals had to use backup power due to outages caused by the storm.

Mangkhut earlier lashed the Philippines, sparking landslides and building collapses that killed at least 65 people, with another 43 missing. Authorities reported four deaths from falling trees and building materials in Guangdong, China's manufacturing hub.

As of Monday morning Mangkhut was on track to pass over the Guangxi regional capital of Nanning and move toward the border with tourism powerhouse Yunnan province.

The Hong Kong Observatory reported Mangkhut was the most powerful cyclone to hit the city since 1979, packing maximum sustained gusts of 195 kilometers per hour (121 mph).

Typhoon Mangkhut barreled into southern China after lashing the Philippines with strong winds and heavy rain that caused landslides feared to have buried dozens.

More than 2.4 million people had been evacuated in southern China's Guangdong province by Sunday evening to flee the typhoon, state media said. "Prepare for the worst," Hong Kong Security Minister John Lee Ka-chiu urged residents.

That warning followed Mangkhut's devastating march through the northern Philippines on Saturday with sustained winds of 205 kilometers (127 miles) per hour. Landslides caused by the pounding storm hit two villages in Itogon town in the mountain province of Benguet.

Itogon Mayor Victorio Palangdan told The Associated Press by phone that at the height of the typhoon's onslaught Saturday afternoon, dozens of people, mostly miners and their families, rushed into an old three-story building in the village of Ucab.

The building—a former mining bunkhouse that had been transformed into a chapel—was obliterated when part of a mountain slope collapsed. Three villagers who managed to escape told authorities what happened.

"They thought they were really safe there," the mayor said Sunday. He expressed sadness that the villagers, many of them poor, had few options to survive in a region where big corporations have profited immensely from gold mines.

The rescue work halted for the night before resuming Monday morning. Men used pikes and shovels to dig into the mud since the soaked ground was unstable and limited the use of heavy equipment on site.

The typhoon was occurring as tropical weather also was devastating the southern U.S. Florence has dumped historical levels of rain on North Carolina.

Mangkhut made landfall in the Guangdong city of Taishan at 5 p.m. Sunday, packing wind speeds of 162 kilometers (100 miles) per hour. State television broadcaster CGTN reported that surging waves flooded a seaside hotel in the city of Shenzhen.

AP

Rescuers retrieve a body at the site where victims are believed to have been buried by a landslide after Typhoon Mangkhut lashed Itogon, Benguet province, northern Philippines, Monday, Sept. 17, 2018.

ASIAN BRIEFS

14 dead as Philippine passenger van falls off cliff

LA TRINIDAD, Philippines (AP)—At least 14 people, mostly elderly villagers, died when the brakes of an overloaded passenger van failed while traveling on a winding road, sending it down a ravine in a mountain province in the northern Philippines, police said Wednesday. Twenty-four other passengers, including the driver, were injured in the accident Tuesday afternoon in Balbalan town in Kalinga province, said Police Chief Superintendent Rolando Nana. Most of the dead were retired villagers in their 60s and 70s returning home after collecting their government pension from a bank. Thirteen passengers were pinned to death while another died on the way to a hospital after being retrieved from the 80-meter-deep (262-foot-deep) ravine, police said. Deadly road accidents in the region have been blamed on weak enforcement of traffic rules, poorly maintained public transport and long-neglected upland roads dangerously perched beside deep ravines.

Militants free 3 Indonesian hostages in southern Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Muslim militants have freed three Indonesian men they kidnapped at sea early last year off Malaysia then brought them to their jungle hideouts in the southern Philippines, officials said Sunday. The Indonesians were freed Friday with the help of the Moro National Liberation Front, a rebel group that signed a peace deal with the Philippine government, in Indanan town in Sulu province, police said. The released hostages, Hamdam Salim, Subandi Sattuh and Sudarlan Samansung, were to be handed to the Indonesian ambassador in southern Zamboanga city later Sunday, the military said. While cruising on board a speedboat, the three were taken at gunpoint by suspected Abu Sayyaf militants off Malaysia's Sabah state on Borneo island in January last year. The hostages were brought aboard motorboats to the gunmen's jungle hideout in Sulu, a poor, predominantly Muslim province in the southern Philippines where the Abu Sayyaf has had a presence since the late 1980s, security officials said. An Abu Sayyaf commander, Marjan Sahidjuan, who uses nom de guerre Apo Mike, led the abductors who freed the captives in exchange for a ransom, a security official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to talk to media.

South Korea plays down chance of nuke progress at Kim summit

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A senior South Korean official on Monday played down the chance that this week's inter-Korean summit will result in major progress in efforts to rid North Korea of its nuclear program.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in flies to Pyongyang on Tuesday for his third summit of the year with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Presidential chief of staff Im Jong-seok told reporters the leaders plan to meet twice during Moon's three-day trip.

Im said it's "difficult to have any optimistic outlook" for progress on denuclearization during those talks, adding that progress will depend on how candid the discussions are. Still, Im said he expects the summit to produce "meaningful" agreements on ways to ease a decades-long military standoff between the rivals. He did not elaborate.

Moon's trip comes as global diplomatic efforts to rid North Korea of its nuclear program have stalled and questions have been raised about how serious Kim is about following through with his vague commitments to denuclearize. Moon has said he hopes he can help restart talks between Washington and Pyongyang, which peaked in June with a historic summit between Kim and U.S. President Donald Trump.

North Korea has long maintained that's its nuclear program is aimed at coping with what it calls U.S. military threats. As such, in exchange for giving up its nuclear program it has been seeking the withdrawal of the 28,500 U.S. troops stationed in South Korea and a peace treaty with the United States to formally end the 1950-53 Korean War. It also wants the lifting of U.S.-led sanctions.

North Korea has taken some steps, like dismantling its nuclear and rocket-engine testing sites, but U.S. officials have said the North must take more serious disarmament steps before receiving outside concessions.

Im, who is in charge of Seoul preparations for the summit, said he was confidant that the talks would yield agreements that "fundamentally remove the danger of armed clashes and ease fears of war" between the two Koreas. He said he expects the agreements would help promote chances for the signing of a peace treaty that formally ends the Korean War.

Military officials have in recent months discussed the possibility of disarming a jointly controlled area at their shared border village, removing front-line guard posts and halting hostile acts along their sea boundary.

The Koreas' 248-kilometer (155-mile) -long border is the world's most heavily fortified, with hundreds of thousands of troops stationed along a border laced with mines, barbed wire fences and anti-tank traps. The navies of the Koreas also fought several bloody skirmishes off the west coast of the Korean Peninsula.

Moon will also take a group of business tycoons such as Samsung scion Lee Jae-yong to Pyongyang. Some experts say Moon is preparing for the resumption of inter-Korean economic cooperation projects after diplomacy eventually yields results. Currently, all major joint economic projects between the Koreas remain stalled because of U.S.-led sanctions.

World

Israeli lawmaker to PM: Dismiss US envoy over aide scandal

JERUSALEM (AP)—An Israeli opposition lawmaker on Sunday called on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to dismiss his ambassador to the United States for failing to report sexual assault allegations against a top Netanyahu aide, ballooning an already embarrassing scandal for the Israeli leader.

Karin Elharrar of the centrist Yesh Atid party said Ron Dermer should be recalled from Washington for not reporting the warnings he received about David Keyes, Netanyahu's spokesman to foreign media. She also lashed out at Netanyahu himself for staying mum on an issue that has engulfed his close associates.

"His silence is thundering. I would expect from the prime minister a clear condemnation, if not at least a mention that the allegations were being looked into," Elharrar told The Associated Press. "Who if not the prime minister should be an example on this matter? It's time that this issue of sexual harassment be at the top of his agenda."

Last week, Julia Salazar, a candidate for New York's state senate, accused Keyes of sexually assaulting her five years ago. Wall Street Journal reporter Shayndi Raice tweeted she too had a "terrible encounter" with Keyes before he became Netanyahu's spokesman. She described him as a "predator" and someone who had "absolutely no conception of the word 'no.'"

AP

In this July 23, 2018 file photo, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu listens to his spokesman David Keyes as he opens the weekly cabinet meeting at his Jerusalem office.

At least a dozen other women have since come forward with varying allegations, some of which are said to have been committed since Keyes took up his current position in early 2016. Keyes, 34, denies the allegations, saying all "are deeply misleading and many of them are categorically false." Keyes says he has taken a leave of absence amid the uproar to try and clear his name.

But the scandal has since spread to the rest of Netanyahu's inner circle, which has previously been rocked with accusations of sexual improprieties. Natan Eshel, a former top aide, was forced to resign in 2012 after allegations emerged that he harassed and intimidated a woman in the prime minister's office, including taking pictures up her skirt. Earlier this year, Netanyahu's son Yair came under fire after a recording emerged of him joyriding at taxpayer expense to Tel Aviv strip clubs and making misogynistic comments about strippers, waitresses and other women.

Over the weekend, Dermer, who was perhaps Netanyahu's closest associate before taking office in Washington, confirmed he was warned in late 2016 by New York Times columnist Bret Stephens, then of the Wall Street Journal, about Keyes' aggressive behavior toward women. The New York Times reported that Stephens, who said he had barred Keyes from visiting the Wall Street Journal opinion section because of harassment complaints women there made against him, warned Dermer that "Keyes posed a risk to women in Israeli government offices."

Leaders of Ethiopia, Eritrea sign accord in Saudi Arabia

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Leaders from Ethiopia and Eritrea signed a peace agreement on Sunday during a summit in Saudi Arabia, yet another sign of warming ties between two nations that have face decades of war and unease.

Terms of the agreement signed by Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki weren't immediately clear. Ethiopia's Foreign Ministry described it as a "seven-point agreement" while Eritrea offered no details.

Saudi authorities did not respond to specific questions about the accord, which earlier had been described as being a further endorsement of a historic deal reached between the two nations in July.

"The peace deal resulted in restoration of normal relations between the countries, on the basis of the close bonds of geography, history and culture between the two nations and their peoples," Saudi Arabia said in a statement Sunday, calling the accord the "Jiddah Agreement."

"The kingdom of Saudi Arabia praised the leaders of Ethiopia and Eritrea for exercising leadership and courage to restore the brotherly relations between the two countries, thus forming the foundation for a new phase that will bring significant developments in the relations between the two nations in all fields," the statement added.

Saudi King Salman and his assertive 33-year-old son, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, were on hand for the summit in the Red Sea port city of Jiddah. Also attending was Emirati Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan and United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

"There is a wind of hope blowing in the Horn of Africa," Guterres told journalists after the signing. "It is not only the peace between Ethiopia and Eritrea—it is the fact that tomorrow and the day after tomorrow we will have, here in Saudi Arabia, the president of Djibouti and the president of Eritrea—two countries that have also been at odds with each other."

In September, an Ethiopian-mediated effort saw relations normalize between Eritrea and Djibouti after a long border dispute. Between 2010 and 2017 Qatar attempted to mediate a settlement but that effort failed. Qatar in June 2017 withdrew its 450 peacekeeping troops from the Eritrean-Djiboutian border after being isolated by Saudi Arabia, the UAE and two other Arab nations as part of a diplomatic dispute.

King Salman also awarded the Ethiopian and Eritrean leaders with the Order of Abdulaziz Al Saud Medal, the kingdom's highest civilian honor. They earlier won similar honors in the UAE.

Abiy and Isaias signed a five-point "Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship" on July 9, ending 20 years of enmity and formally restoring diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Landlocked Ethiopia fought a bloody war with Eritrea from 1998 to 2000 over a border dispute that killed tens of thousands of people. The conflict ended in an uneasy peace with Eritrea, which earlier fought a decades-long war of independence from Ethiopia.

Yet that suddenly changed with the election of Abiy as prime minister. A whirlwind of talks suddenly ended the long conflict between the two nations in July, with telephone calls and flights suddenly possible between the two nations.

It was particularly surprising for Eritrea, a closed-off nation of 5 million people ruled by Isaias since 1993. Eritrea's system of compulsory conscription that led thousands of Eritreans to flee toward Europe, Israel and elsewhere. Ethiopia is home to 105 million people.

Guatemala court orders UN anti-graft chief be readmitted

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—The Constitutional Court ordered President Jimmy Morales late Sunday to allow the head of a U.N.-backed anti-corruption commission to return to Guatemala, dealing a blunt rebuke to the leader who has sought in recent weeks to defang the body and its work.

The unanimous ruling by the court's five magistrates marked the second time in as many years that the court has reversed Morales' efforts to keep commission chief Ivan Velasquez out of Guatemala. Velasquez has pressed a number of high-profile graft probes, including one that is pending against the president himself.

There was no immediate public reaction from the president. His spokesman, Alfredo Brito, did not immediately respond to phone calls seeking comment.

Morales announced in late August that he would not renew the mandate of the commission for another two-year term, effectively giving it a year to wind down and end its activities.

A few days later he said that Velasquez, a Colombian national who was traveling in Washington at the time, would be barred from reentering the Central American nation. Morales called him "a person who attacks order and public security in the country."

Morales' order touched off public protests in support of the body, and multiple appeals were promptly filed with the Constitutional Court.

In issuing its decision Sunday night, the court said its ruling must be obeyed and cannot be appealed.

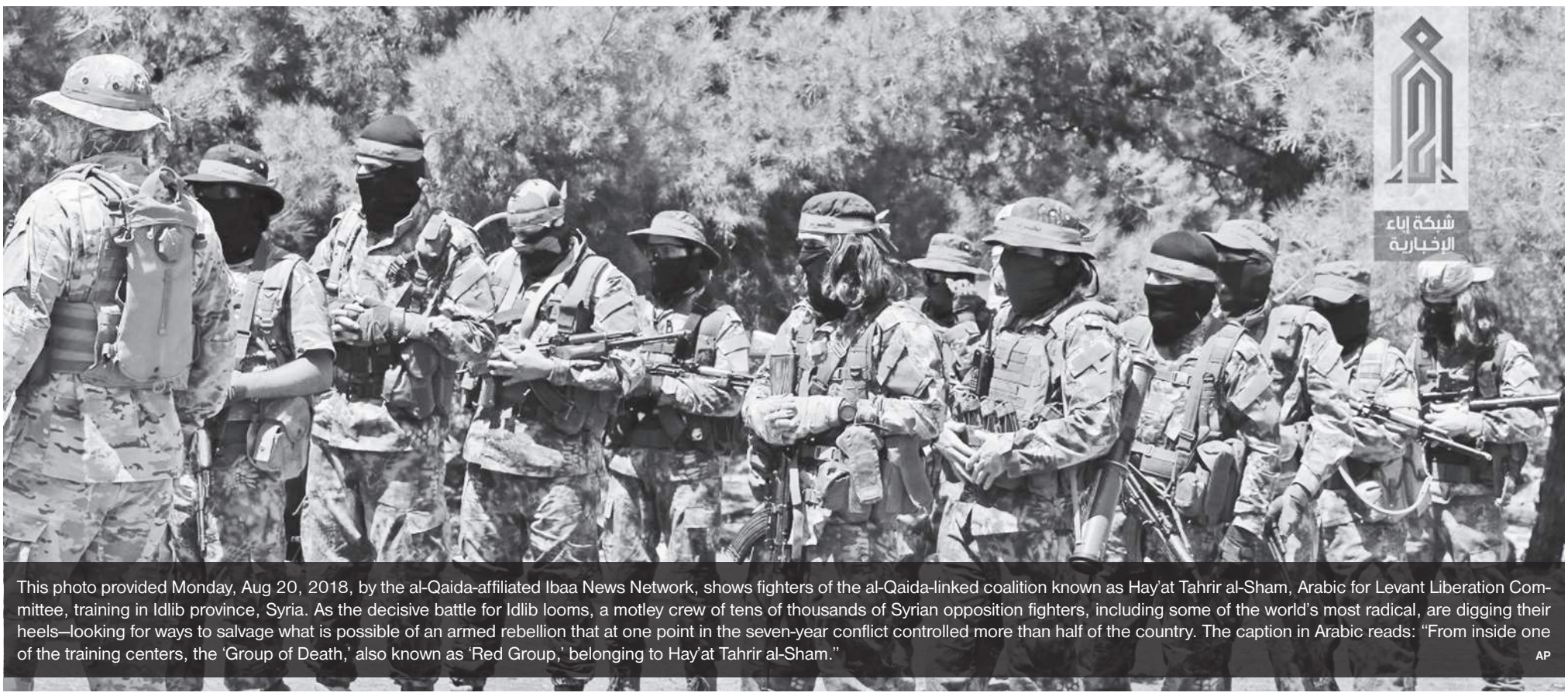
Morales said earlier this month that he was "not obligated to obey illegal rulings," which observers interpreted as a clear allusion to the court's previous checks on his actions.

Last year, Morales had declared Velasquez persona non grata and tried to have him expelled from the country, but that move was blocked by the Constitutional Court.

Among the investigations that the commission, known as CICIG for its initials in Spanish, has brought in Guatemala was one that led to the resignation and jailing of former President Otto Perez Molina and his vice president. Others have ensnared dozens of politicians, public officials and businesspeople.

Morales is suspected in a case involving more than $1 million in purported illicit campaign financing. In August, Guatemala's Supreme Court allowed a motion by CICIG and Guatemalan prosecutors seeking to lift the president's immunity from prosecution to go to lawmakers. If they approve it, he would be opened up to possible prosecution.

Focus



This photo provided Monday, Aug 20, 2018, by the al-Qaida-affiliated Ibaa News Network, shows fighters of the al-Qaida-linked coalition known as Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham, Arabic for Levant Liberation Committee, training in Idlib province, Syria. As the decisive battle for Idlib looms, a motley crew of tens of thousands of Syrian opposition fighters, including some of the world's most radical, are digging their heels—looking for ways to salvage what is possible of an armed rebellion that at one point in the seven-year conflict controlled more than half of the country. The caption in Arabic reads: "From inside one of the training centers, the 'Group of Death,' also known as 'Red Group,' belonging to Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham." AP

LAST STAND:
Syria's rebel Idlib prepares for a losing battle

By SARAH EL DEEB
ASSOCIATED PRESS

They dug trenches around towns, reinforced caves for cover and put up sand bags around their positions. They issued calls to arms, urging young men to join in the defense of Idlib, the Syrian province where opposition fighters expect to make their last stand against Russian- and Iranian-backed government troops they have fought for years.

This time, it's "surrender or die."

As the decisive stand for their last stronghold looms, this motley crew of tens of thousands of opposition fighters, including some of the world's most radical groups, is looking for ways to salvage whatever is possible of an armed rebellion that at one point in the seven-year conflict controlled more than half of the country.

In its last chapter, just as it has throughout the long, bloody war, the Syrian rebellion's fate lies in foreign hands. This time, the splintered and diverse rebels have only Turkey.

"The whole world gave up on us, but Turkey will not," said Capt. Najib al-Mustafa, spokesman for the Turkish-backed umbrella group known as the National Front for Liberation.

Idlib, with its 3 million residents and more than 60,000 fighters, is Turkey's cross to bear.

Ankara has appealed to Russia and Iran, its uneasy negotiating partners, for a diplomatic resolution to the ticking bomb. At the same time, it has sent reinforcements of its troops ringing Idlib, a move designed to ward off a ground assault, at least for now.

A wide offensive is only likely after a green light from Russia. But delicate diplomatic moves are at work. Moscow is keen on strengthening ties with Turkey, at a time when Ankara's relations are at their lowest with the United States. Turkey, by calling on the United States and Europe for support, seems to be playing on that interest to pressure Russia to accept its proposals for a solution on Idlib that avoids an attack.

On Monday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan meets for the second time in 10 days with Russia's Vladimir Putin, this time in Sochi, Russia.

"After proving its influence in Syria and the Middle East, Russia wants to pull Turkey away from the West much more than achieve a military victory over the armed Syrian opposition," Mustafa Ellabbad, an expert on Turkish-Arab relations, wrote in Kuwait's al-Qabas newspaper.

The province, the size of Lebanon, has been the beating heart of the rebellion for years. In rebel hands since 2015, it is the largest contiguous territory they controlled. It has access to Turkish borders, securing supply lines for weapons, fighters and aid.

For the past two years, Idlib became the shoe-box into which were pushed an estimated 20,000 rebel fighters from around the country, after their losses to government troops and surrender deals negotiated with Russia and Damascus following devastating sieges. Civilians who refused to go back under government rule were also bussed there, nearly doubling the province's population.

Among the estimated 60,000 opposition fighters in Idlib are at least 10,000 radicals affiliated with the al-Qaida-linked group, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (Arabic for Levant Liberation Committee). Thousands of foreign fighters, from China, Europe and the Middle East, are the backbone of the radical groups.

The Turkish reinforcements are the presence of radical fighters. By backing the National Front, it argued it can draw fighters away from the al-Qaida-linked HTS, the dominant power in the province, forcing it to dissolve and creating a new opposition force ready to negotiate with the Syrian government.

The strategy has had limited success.

The National Front in recent months gained control of territory in Idlib from HTS, which still controls nearly 70 percent of the province. HTS began to show signs of splits and two weeks ago, Turkey declared it a terrorist group.

But with the onset of a military going to 12 observation points that Ankara set up around Idlib last year under a deal with Russia and Iran creating a "de-escalation zone." The deal also effectively stopped an earlier government advance and set Turkey up as Idlib's protector.

Separately, Turkey has troops stationed in the enclave under its control north and east of Idlib, where it backs Syrian opposition fighters and a civilian administration. It is part of its plan to create a safe area along the border where some of the more than 3 million Syrian refugees it hosts may return.

Ankara initially sent in its troops more than two years ago to push out the Islamic State group and Syrian Kurdish fighters. For Ankara, the increasingly assertive, U.S.-backed Syrian Kurds were an existential threat that encourages the aspirations of its own Kurdish insurgents.

"In the mind of the rebellion, the hope is that from Turkish support they can have ... a republic of northern Syria, protected by Turkey like Northern Cyprus," said Fabrice Balanche, a Syria watcher at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

These Turkey-administered areas are likely to be the destination of the displaced and rebels of Idlib in case of an offensive.

An Idlib offensive holds multiple threats for Turkey right on its border—a humanitarian crisis, a security nightmare with thousands of gunmen loose and a defeat to its plans for the safe zone. If Syrian forces retake Idlib with no agreement on the fate of the opposition fighters, they could threaten the Turkey-controlled enclave, and Ankara would lose credibility with the fighters and leverage with Damascus on any future deal.

"There is really no way for the Syrian military and Damascus' allies to launch a military offensive on Idlib that doesn't have deeply negative, injurious effects on Turkey. There is no real way they can cushion this for Turkey," said Sam Heller, a Syria expert in the Brussels-based International Crisis Group.

Turkey's strategy in the opposition areas has been complicated by offensive, HTS has set up joint operation rooms with different National Front factions.

Making a rare video appearance in late August, HTS leader Abu Mohammed al-Golani—wearing an olive-green military uniform—vowed to fight Assad's forces and said Turkish observation points were no protection.

The HTS spokesman in Idlib said now was not the time to talk about dissolving into Turkish-backed rebel groups. He underlined that an arrangement must eventually be made for the foreign fighters in the group.

"Right now, no sound is louder than that of the battle," Imad Eddin Mujahed said. "We have many military surprises; enough to upset the balance and ward off aggressors."

In rallies around Idlib the last two weeks, protesters took to the streets to deny that the province is a hotbed of extremists. Thousands raised only the flag of the Syrian revolution, a reminder that there was once a popular uprising against Assad, and Idlib is now its last bastion.

Some raised banners reading: "The rebels are our hope and the Turks are our brothers."

Syrian forces and Iranian-backed militias are likely to avoid a clash with the Turkish troops. But the stance of the Syrian government and Iran is clear-cut: They vow to recapture all Syrian territory and are loath to see an expansion of Turkish and American influence. They argue the West fueled jihadis with past support of the opposition and now must let Syria get rid of them.

"Assad and Russia gave the choice to the international community: First we kill everybody. Second thing, (they said) if you want to protect (Idlib) then take those people you think are nice ... It is cynical but puts the international community before its contradictions," said Balanche.

Al-Mustafa, the National Front spokesman, said the rebels are prepared for a battle he called "existential."

But, he added, "our cause will not end if we lose this battle."

Overdrive

The 2018 Kia Sportage. TNS

AUTO REVIEW

Perky and personable Kia crossover is short on exterior style but long on value

By CHARLES FLEMING
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The South Korean car company Kia took the "sport" in sport utility vehicle and turned it into "Sportage"—a word that, as far as I can determine, represents no known thing in any known language.

In the Kia lineup, it represents a perky, personable crossover vehicle that is short on style but long on value.

Driven by a 2-liter, turbocharged four-cylinder gasoline engine that produces 237 horsepower and 260 pound-feet of torque, and is mated to a six-speed automatic transmission, this lightweight SUV also features available all-wheel drive with a locking differential.

Snappy around town, if a little sluggish at freeway speeds, the Sportage is capable of turning into an off-road vehicle with the flick of a switch. On some dirt and gravel roads around Morro Bay, Calif., the car's 19-inch wheels felt sure-footed and agile.

Driving modes include sporty and economical choices. Though there were only subtle differences between the two, I found the throttle a little twitchy in sport mode—s if the car were a little too eager to show off its turbo power.

On the highway, though, that jumpiness smoothed out. I also found that switching to the economy mode didn't diminish the driving pleasure much. While that did improve the gas mileage by about 10 percent, it wasn't enough to get the fuel economy above 24.5 miles per gallon, far below what an economical car should be able to offer.

I also appreciated the fact that the car stayed in its drive mode setting between drives, and didn't require resetting every time the Kia was started anew.

I was a little disappointed to discover that the cruise control was just a regular, old-fashioned cruise control. It offered none of the adaptive cruise control features that are standard on almost all Honda and Toyota vehicles, such as emergency braking and forward collision mitigation.

Though the Sportage boasts "autonomous emergency braking" as a standard performance feature, I never felt it kick in.

Kia offers the Sportage in LX, EX and SX trim levels. The SX is fitted with the turbo and the other versions with a slightly larger, but less powerful, four-cylinder engine. All three models come in both front-wheel- and all-wheel-drive formats.

The leather-clad interior on this SX trim featured a very good Harman Kardon sound system and an effective HVAC system, with front seat ventilation that was superior to that of many cars in this class. (This feature was welcome after a midday hike in triple-digit temperatures. I admit I did not test the front seat heaters or heated steering wheel under the same conditions.)

Visibility was excellent, and the huge sunroof—optional on the EX and standard on the SX—opened with the push of a single button. The touch-screen entertainment and navigation screen was intuitive and effective.

The rear passenger area offered generous headroom and legroom, plus back-seat ventilation vents—a simple but welcome addition that is missing on a lot of vehicles. The back seat also sported its own speakers, cup holders and USB and 12-volt outlets. The rear windows even lowered all the way.

The designers seem to have been less creative on the outside. The Sportage is so anonymous that, on several occasions, my traveling companion and I walked up to the wrong SUV in a parking lot.

This model was distinguished by a roof rack—standard on the EX and SX trims—and, like other Kias, features a smiling-mouth grill and upturned chin. But from the sides and rear it looks like just another generic crossover.

That's not necessarily an important point. Consumers drawn to this SUV will be most attracted by Kia's well-deserved reputation for building quality cars at an affordable price. The entry-level Sportage starts at $24,580. The top-of-the-line SX starts at $36,125.

Like everything else in the Kia stable, all the Sportages come with a 100,000-mile warranty on the powertrain—a warranty that, when it was first offered, seemed risky for the company.

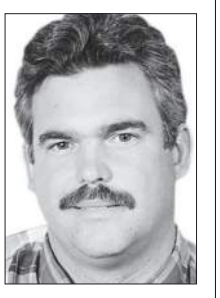
It wasn't. Many of Kia's cars ran 100,000 miles or more without problems. Since then, Kia has sold a lot of cars with that warranty, and may sell a lot of these.

Charles Fleming writes about automobiles and motorcycles for the Los Angeles Times' *Business section. Readers may send him email at charles.fleming@latimes.com.*

UNDER THE HOOD

Changing cabin air filter is a good idea, and a DIY task

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
Tribune News Service



Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at bradbergholdt@gmail.com; he cannot make personal replies.

Q Can you please tell me about my cabin air filter? I took my car in for an oil change and they tried to sell me a cabin filter. Which cars have these? How do they work? How often should they be replaced? Can I do it myself?

— Greg S.

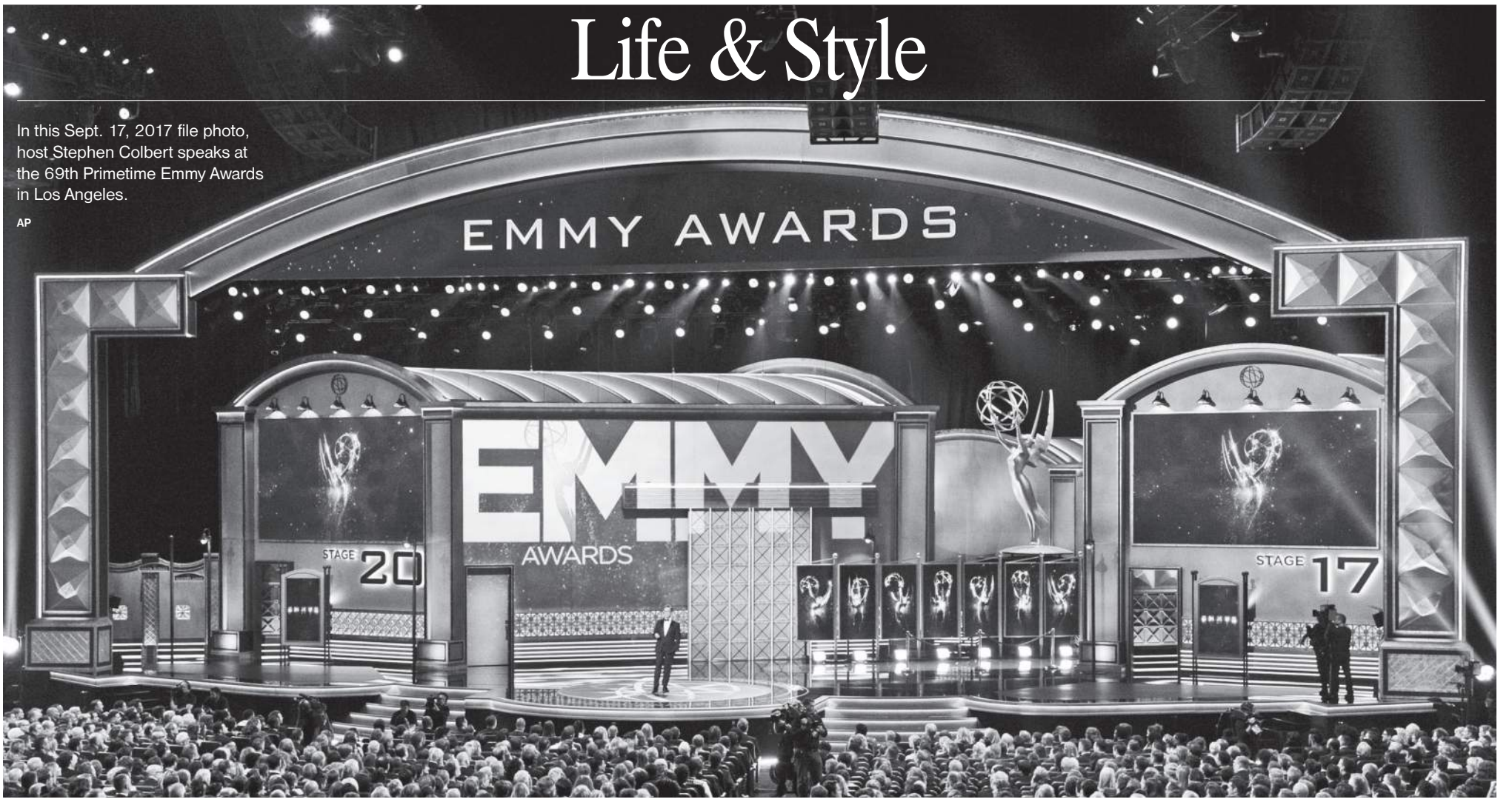
A Great questions! These filters have been widely adopted in domestic and Asian vehicles for about 15 years, longer so in European vehicles. Cabin air filters go by a variety of names and resemble a miniature version of a home furnace filter. The filter is designed to trap pollen and dust passing through the vehicle's ventilation system, with some additionally claiming to filter allergens, odors, pollutants, soot, carbon monoxide and what have you.

A cabin air filter typically resides in a slide-out tray within the HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) housing behind the instrument panel. Many are easily accessed after uncoupling the glove box and tilting it down/out of the way. Others are accessed from under the hood, or above and to the right of the accelerator pedal. In most cases, once you determine the location (consult your owner's manual, an online auto repair service at a public library, or simply look for the tray) it's a simple do-it-yourself job. Replacement filters cost between $10 to $30, from basic pleated paper to fancier multi-stage, and are intended to be replaced roughly every 15,000 miles or once a year. Higher end multi-stage replacement filters containing activated charcoal help reduce odors and toxic gasses, and generally fit better, preventing unfiltered air from sneaking around the filter.

What happens if you don't regularly renew your filter? You may notice an odor and gradually reduced ventilation airflow from the vents, heater and defroster. If severely restricted, there's a slight chance of damage to the air conditioning compressor due to decreased evaporator function and the return of liquid refrigerant. Once you see how yucky a cabin filter can become in a year's time, you'll want it out of the car for sure! An amazing quantity of sludgy, stinky stuff passes through the ventilation system, due in part to leaf and debris buildup at the air inlet near the windshield/hood intersection. Cleaning this area (check under the rear edge of the hood as well), can make a big difference in ventilation air quality, with or without a cabin filter.

Cabin air filters are the best thing to ever happen to the quick lube industry! With other vehicle maintenance needs becoming fewer, this super profitable and easy-to-perform service couldn't have come at a better time. Adding to this, a large percentage of vehicle owners aren't aware they have a cabin filter, or how simple a DIY job many can be. Perhaps you might pay to have this done once, but insist on being shown where the filter is located? Then you can decide if you'd like to take from there in the future.

Life & Style



In this Sept. 17, 2017 file photo, host Stephen Colbert speaks at the 69th Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles.

AP

The Emmy winner is…maybe viewers, diversity, 'SNL' brand

By LYNN ELBER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

As Emmy Award nominees nervously wait to hear their name called, or not, there's more on the line at Monday night's ceremony than personal glory.

"Saturday Night Live" creator Lorne Michaels, producing his second Emmy telecast in 30 years, is tasked with turning viewership around after the 2017 show's audience of 11.4 million narrowly avoided the embarrassment of setting a new low.

The 8 p.m. EDT ceremony on NBC clearly bears his stamp, with "SNL" faux news anchors Michael Che and Colin Jost as hosts and familiar "SNL" faces, including Kate McKinnon and Alec Baldwin, as presenters and nominees. The long-running NBC sketch show, already the top Emmy winner ever with 71, could snare up to three more.

The pressure's on Michaels because NBC and other broadcasters are increasingly reliant on awards and other live events to draw viewers distracted by streaming and more 21st- century options. The networks, which air the Emmy telecast on a rotating basis, are so eager for the ad dollars it generates and its promotional value for fall shows that they endure online competitors sharing the stage.

It's Hulu's "The Handmaid's Tale" that's the defending best drama series champ, with HBO's two-time previous winner "Game of Thrones" the top rival. NBC's "This Is Us" is the only network nominee in the category. On the comedy side, the front-runners are FX's "Atlanta" and Amazon Prime Video's "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel," with ABC's "black-ish" the only network show in contention.

The telecast could see a number of record nominations for people of color converted into awards, some historic.

Sandra Oh has the chance to become the first performer of Asian descent to win a lead drama actress trophy for the BBC America's spy thriller "Killing Eve." Oh, who's Korean-Canadian, previously received five supporting actress nods for "Grey's Anatomy."

Issa Rae of HBO's "Insecure" or ABC's "black-ish" star Tracee Ellis Ross could become the second African-American to win as best comedy actress, following Isabel Sanford (1981, "The Jeffersons") by 37 years. The field, including Rachel Brosnahan of "Mrs. Maisel," is wide open, with six-time Julia Louis-Dreyfus and her HBO series, "Veep," sitting these Emmys out for scheduling reasons.

If the show hits a lull there's a good chance politics will shake it up. "Weekend Update" anchors Che and Jost regularly traffic in political satire on "SNL," and awards ceremonies have become a routine forum for celebrities to share their views on current events. It's a trend embraced by Hollywood, at least publicly.

"I think if you're given a forum and people are listening and you got something to say, particularly this day and age, say it," said Ed Harris, up for best drama actor for the sci-fi drama "Westworld."

Yeardley Smith, an Emmy winner for voicing Lisa on "The Simpsons," said she doesn't object when winners use the spotlight to say more than "thank you."

"I don't think it's inappropriate," Smith said. "I think that you do need to strike a balance. I think if you're truly passionate about something, anything, that if you have a platform, you almost have a moral obligation to speak up."

Met Opera to start Sunday performances in 2019-20

NEW YORK (AP)—The Metropolitan Opera will start regular Sunday afternoon performances for the first time in its century-plus history during the 2019-20 season.

As part of its new union agreements announced Friday, the company also will go dark each February beginning in 2020-21. The Met will open the second half of each season in March with a new production, and the season will extend by a month into mid-June.

The Met has had slumping ticket sales in recent years, hurt by an aging audience and a shift away from subscriptions by attendees for most arts performances. The Met sold 75 percent of capacity last season and 67 percent of available box office, about the same as in 2016-17.

"We know that Saturday matinees perform 15-20 percent better at the box office than weeknights and we project Sundays will do the same," Met General Manager Peter Gelb said, anticipating revenue will increase by millions of dollars.

As part of three-year contracts, the Met has the right to present up to 17 Sunday matinees in 2019-20 and 27 the following season. Any Sunday performance will be followed by a Monday off for both performances and orchestra rehearsals. There also are limits on Tuesday morning rehearsals after Sunday shows.

Aretha's tomb is open to the public and fans are paying their respects

By MARC DAALDER
DETROIT FREE PRESS

DETROIT—Thousands of people watched in person and millions more observed online and on TV Aug. 31 as Aretha Franklin's funeral procession advanced up Seven Mile Road toward her final resting place in the main mausoleum of Detroit's Woodlawn Cemetery.

The interment was closed to the public, but outside the gates was a frenzy of media, celebrity and fan activity. Now, two weeks after the event, the halls of the mausoleum are largely silent. Every once in a while, a fan or two wanders in to pay respects, treating the room with the reverence of a saint's tomb.

Woodlawn is one of the city's most prominent cemeteries. Auto barons Edsel and Eleanor Ford are buried there, as are civil rights luminaries Rosa Parks and Aretha Franklin's father, the Rev. C. L. Franklin. That this is the Queen of Soul's final resting place is no surprise.

Each room on the mausoleum's bottom floor, where Aretha is entombed, is made of a different color marble. The room containing Aretha and her father is white marble. Next door, the room one attendant called the Rose Room contains Franklin's two sisters, interred behind dark red marble facades. The slabs in every room are adorned with gold letters spelling out the names.

Access to the main mausoleum where Franklin's tomb is located is public and Woodlawn employees—groundskeepers, custodians and sales staff alike—directed a number of pilgrims to her final resting place Wednesday afternoon.

One of those who came to pay respects was Linda Ferrell, 69, of Detroit. Ferrell, speaking in hushed tones outside the room where Franklin is interred alongside her father, told the Free Press that she was friends with Aretha's sister.

Ferrell was among the thousands of fans who witnessed Franklin's funeral procession in person, waiting outside the cemetery "for hours" while the singer's hearse approached and then while her body was interred. Still, she wanted to come once more to see for herself.

"I wanted to make sure it was real," she explained. Now, "it sinks in. You know she passed, but this brings it home."

It's one thing to witness the elaborate funeral of a national icon and another thing entirely to visit the grave of someone you've known since you were young.

"Aretha was at the fringe of my family," Ferrell explained, saying she came to see the resting place of Aretha the person, not necessarily Aretha the Queen of Soul.

"They were people, too," she said of the Franklins. "They were neighbors like everybody else."

The experience was a little different for Calvin Jackson, 69, of Indian Village, Mich. Being here "is definitely a tearjerker," he said.

He was visiting with his friend, Sonia Hudson, 57, of Detroit. Though he had grown up in the same neighborhood as Ferrell and Franklin, living in the Linwood area and graduating from Northwestern High School, he didn't have the same personal connections to the singer.

Instead, his connection was to her music. "Now when I hear her music, it definitely brings a tear to my eye. It has more meaning and more impact," he said.

Soon-Yi Previn defends husband Woody Allen, attacks mother

NEW YORK (AP)—Soon-Yi Previn, the wife of Woody Allen and the estranged adopted daughter of Mia Farrow, defended her husband against what she contends is unfair treatment in the #MeToo era and attacked her adoptive mother in her first public comments about the relationships in decades.

New York magazine posted on its website Sunday night an in-depth article about Previn in which she talks of a troubled relationship with her mother and tells how she fell in love in 1992 with Allen, who was Farrow's boyfriend at the time.

The 47-year-old said she and her mother clashed soon after Farrow adopted her and that her mother many times treated her like a maid. She denies being manipulated into a relationship by Allen.

Previn told the magazine that she decided to speak out now because Dylan Farrow, who is an adopted daughter of Allen, is, in her view, unfairly accusing her husband of sexually abusing her when she was a child.

In this Saturday, May 15, 2010, file photo, filmmaker Woody Allen, right, and Soon-Yi Previn arrive for the premiere of "Another Year," at the 63rd international film festival, in Cannes, southern France. AP

"I was never interested in writing a 'Mommie Dearest,' getting even with Mia—none of that," Previn told the magazine. "But what's happened to Woody is so upsetting, so unjust. (Mia) has taken advantage of the #MeToo movement and paraded Dylan as a victim. And a whole new generation is hearing about it when they shouldn't."

She also said of Farrow: "Mia wasn't maternal to me from the get-go."

An email sent to Mia Farrow's agent Sunday night was not immediately returned.

The Associated Press does not typically name victims of sexual abuse, but Dylan Farrow has commented extensively on her allegations that Allen abused her in 1992 when she was 7-years-old. Allen was investigated but wasn't charged, and he has long denied inappropriately touching Farrow. In a statement in January after Dylan Farrow's allegations resurfaced, Allen reiterated his denial and accused her and her family of using the Time's Up movement "to repeat this discredited allegation."

In separate statements posted on Twitter Sunday night, Dylan Farrow and Ronan Farrow say their mother is a good parent and that the New York magazine article is inaccurate and unfair. Dylan Farrow also noted that the New York magazine piece's author, Daphne Merkin, calls herself a longtime friend of Allen's.

The director, who faced a wave of backlash earlier this year including several prominent actors vowing not to work with him again, is also quoted in the New York magazine piece. "I am a pariah," Merkin quotes the director as saying during a lunch. "People think that I was Soon-Yi's father, that I raped and married my underaged, retarded daughter."

'The Predator' gobbles up competition at box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Predator" is at the top of the food chain in its first weekend in theaters.

20th Century Fox said Sunday that the film earned an estimated $24 million from more than 4,000 North American theaters.

But with an $88 million production price tag, the Shane Black-directed installment in the 30-year-old franchise will be looking to international receipts to offset the cost. This weekend, it earned $30.7 million from 72 foreign markets, bringing the global total to $54.7 million.

Domestic audiences were largely male (62 percent) and white (45 percent), and underwhelmed, giving the movie a C+ CinemaScore that echoed the tepid critical response.

Starring Olivia Munn, Sterling K. Brown and Boyd Holbrook, "The Predator" made headlines just weeks before opening when the studio cut a scene that featured an actor who was a registered sex offender. It did not appear to have affected the film's box office performance.

"Any conversation raises awareness," said comScore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "If people are talking about it then they're aware of the movie."

Second place went to the "Conjuring" spinoff "The Nun," which added $18.2 million in its second weekend. The horror pic has now grossed over $85 million.

Lionsgate's "A Simple Favor" opened close behind in third place with $16.1 million. The film from director Paul Feig stars Anna Kendrick as a mommy blogger investigating the disappearance of her friend played by Blake Lively. Feig has referred to it as a "friller," a fun thriller. Female moviegoers drove the solid opening, making up 67 percent of the audience.

This image released by 20th Century Fox shows a scene from "The Predator." AP

"It stood out in the marketplace," said David Spitz, Lionsgate's distribution president. "It kind of became an event film. That's why we exceeded expectations."

With a B+ CinemaScore, an older audience that doesn't rush out to theaters opening weekend and positive reviews, the studio expects the film will continue to play well over the coming weeks.

Fourth and fifth places were neck and neck. According to Sunday estimates, "White Boy Rick," with $8.8 million, had a slight advantage over "Crazy Rich Asians," which added $8.7 million and is just shy of hitting $150 million.

"White Boy Rick," based on a true story and starring Matthew McConaughey as the father of a teenage FBI informant, opened in 2,504 theaters.

The Christian film "Unbroken: Path to Redemption" debuted in the No. 9 spot with $2.4 million. It's based on Laura Hillenbrand's novel about Olympian and World War II veteran Louis Zamperini and picks up where "Unbroken" left off.

September is often a slow time at the box office, making a $24 million launch somewhat notable, according to Dergarabedian. But while the year to date is still up nearly 9 percent, the weekend itself is down 5.8 percent from last year when "It" was still terrifying audiences and breaking records.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "**The Predator**," $24 million *($30.7 million international)*.
2. "**The Nun**," $18.2 million *($33.1 million international)*.
3. "**A Simple Favor**," $16.1 million *($3.5 million international)*.
4. "**White Boy Rick**," $8.8 million.
5. "**Crazy Rich Asians**," $8.7 million *($7.3 million international)*.
6. "**Peppermint**," $6.1 million *($1.8 million international)*.
7. "**The Meg**," $3.8 million *($6.1 million international)*.
8. "**Searching**," $3.2 million *($6 million international)*.
9. "**Unbroken: Path to Redemption**," $2.4 million.
10. "**Mission: Impossible—Fallout**," $2.3 million *($15.9 million international)*.

Ethan Hawke spotlights a little-known legend in 'Blaze'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ethan Hawke had long been enchanted by the songs of mysterious singer-songwriter Blaze Foley. Foley wrote songs like 'If I Could Only Fly," that Willie Nelson covered and would go on to become a Merle Haggard hit, and "Clay Pigeons," which John Prine covered. Townes Van Zandt and Lucinda Williams wrote songs about him after his death at age 39—he was shot in 1989. And yet his is a name that few outside of the Austin music scene would know.

Hawke

This could change with the release of "Blaze," now playing in limited release, which Hawke directed and co-wrote and appears in briefly as a radio journalist discovering the legend of Foley along with the audience. It would take Austin Chronicle co-founder Louis Black to really help Hawke crack the story.

Black asked Hawke if he had read Foley's wife's book.

Hawke responded: "Blaze had a wife?"

It was Sybil Rosen's story, and memoir "Living in the Woods in a Treehouse: Remembering Blaze Foley," that would provide the basis for the film and its exploration of his early years (yes, in a treehouse) to his decline. Once Foley's muse, Rosen, who cowrote "Blaze" has found that he is her muse as well.

"He didn't know how to tell Blaze's story. He didn't want to do a story about dereliction or addiction," Rosen said. "One of the things I love about the telling of the movie is that sadness, sorrow and loss are tremendous muses, but they're not the only muses good art can flow from. I wanted to make the point that it was joy and love and nature that unlocked his creativity and not all this loss and sorrow that was to come."

Rosen is played by "Arrested Development" actress Alia Shawkat, and Foley by newcomer Ben Dickey, who is himself a singer-songwriter.

The film, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, boasts a rare 100 percent on Rotten Tomatoes.

"Blaze" is not, as Hawke and Rosen like to say, "a Wikipedia page" but more of an expression of Foley in all of his forms whether describing the merits of being a legend versus being a star ("stars burn just for themselves"), or offending everyone with drunken antics in the recording studio.

"There some lines in Blaze's songs that shatter me," Hawke said in a recent interview. "And they're so simple, it's like a Matisse painting.

"The movie is disguised as a biopic. It's not really a biopic," Hawke said. "It's a love story about human creativity. ... For me, he's telling the legend of a lot of people who are met with indifference. People whose creativity is real and vibrant and a part of whatever collective consciousness we have as a community."

For Rosen, it's been a cathartic experience.

"I'm endlessly amazed by the impact that he has had on my life and continues to have. How often do you get to fall in love with the same person three times?" Rosen said. "People ask what Blaze would think of the movie. I feel like he would say, 'I told you so. I told you this was going to happen.'"

'The Voice' adds John Legend as coach for Season 16

He mastered "Jesus Christ Superstar," but is John Legend ready to tackle "John Legend 'Voice' Coach?"

That's the question as NBC announced Wednesday that Legend, a newly crowned EGOT winner, will be joining "The Voice" as a coach in spring 2019 for the show's 16th season.

"I'm thrilled to join the coaches of 'The Voice,'" Legend said in a statement the network released. "I've been a guest and mentor on the show multiple times, and I'm so excited to discover talented singers and help them make the most of their gift. I hope the world is ready for #TeamJL."

Legend is joining a lineup of coaches boasting Kelly Clarkson, Adam Levine and Blake Shelton. The "All of Me" singer is replacing Jennifer Hudson, who served as a coach in Season 13 and will return for Season 15, which will premiere Sept. 24.

In this Sept. 9, 2018 file photo, John Legend arrives at the Creative Arts Emmy Awards in Los Angeles. AP

Legend is one of the most decorated artists to serve as a coach in the show's history. Legend won an Emmy on Sunday as a producer on "Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert," a Tony in 2017 for co-producing a revival of August Wilson's "Jitney," an Oscar in 2015 for co-writing best song "Glory," as well as amassing an astounding 10 Grammys throughout his career thus far. ***(Los Angeles Times)***

Kansas woman releases memoir on growing up poor

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—A Kansas writer who grew up in poverty is releasing a memoir she hopes will shine a light on an often-ignored part of the American landscape.

Sarah Smarsh's book "Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth" is scheduled for nationwide release Tuesday. The book is listed as a contender in this year's National Book Award for Nonfiction, the Wichita Eagle reported .

Smarsh, 38, said she chronicled her turbulent childhood in rural Kansas because such stories often go unnoticed. She comes from a long line of teen mothers, which she said helped her decide early on that escaping poverty meant avoiding pregnancy. Her memoir is addressed to a daughter she never had.

"America didn't talk about class when I was growing up," she wrote in the prologue. "I had no idea why my life looked the way it did, why my parents' young bodies ached, why some opportunities were closed off to me."

Bookstores are currently packed with stories about life among the working poor. But Smarsh said she wants to highlight more subtleties of class, culture and politics through her experience growing up in the 1980s and '90s as the daughter of a fourth-generation Kansas farmer and attending the University of Kansas alongside students with very different upbringings.

"The distance between my world and my country's understanding of it had been growing because so few people from my place ever ended up on a college campus and beyond to tell its stories," she said. "It was a distance I wanted to make smaller."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Montana photographer sues Netflix over copyright law

GREAT FALLS, Mont. (AP)—A Montana photographer is suing Netflix, alleging the company violated copyright law by using one of his photos without permission to create storm images for the series "Stranger Things" and the movie "How It Ends." The Great Falls Tribune reported Friday Sean R. Heavey of Glasgow filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Great Falls. A Netflix attorney has told Heavey in a letter that its images are different from the photo and that the company didn't violate his copyright. The newspaper says the company didn't respond to its request for a comment. Heavey says he took the photo in Montana in 2010 and registered his copyright that year. It shows a supercell storm cloud. His lawsuit asks for unspecified damages and legal costs.

Pussy Riot member treated in Berlin for suspected poisoning

BERLIN (AP)—A member of Russian protest group Pussy Riot is being treated in Berlin after falling severely ill, with fellow activists saying he was poisoned. Pyotr Verzilov was flown to the German capital late Saturday. Verzilov was first hospitalized in Moscow on Tuesday and had remained in intensive care, Pussy Riot members said this week. Maria Alekhina, a member of the group, told The Associated Press that he regained consciousness Friday. Verzilov, his partner Veronika Nikulshina and two other Pussy Riot members served 15-day jail sentences for running onto field in Moscow where soccer's World Cup final was being played in July. Their protest of what they described as the excessive powers of Russia's police briefly disrupted the match.

'Green Book' wins audience award at Toronto Film Festival

NEW YORK (AP)—Peter Farrelly's crowd-pleasing Deep South road trip movie "Green Book" won the Toronto International Film Festival's audience award on Sunday, putting it on an envious path to the Oscars.

Toronto's People's Choice Award is one of the most closely watched of the fall festival circuit because it often corresponds with awards-season success. In the past decade, every Toronto People's Choice winner has scored a best-picture nomination at the Academy Awards.

Few pundits pegged "Green Book" as an awards favorite ahead of its world premiere in Toronto. It is, after all, directed by one-half of the sibling duo best known for broad comedies like "There's Something About Mary" and "Dumb and Dumber."

But the audience response was rapturous to "Green Book," which stars Mahershala Ali as a classical pianist on a concert tour of the Deep South in the 1960s. Viggo Mortensen plays the Italian-American bouncer hired to drive him while relying on "The Green Book," the guide for African-American-friendly hotels and restaurants.

The first runner-up for Toronto's top prize was Barry Jenkins' James Baldwin adaptation "If Beale Street Could Talk. The second runner-up was Alfonso Cuarón's black-and-white neo-realistic drama "Roma."

Failing to place in the top three, to the surprise of many, was Bradley Cooper's "A Star Is Born." His remake of the Hollywood classic, starring Lady Gaga, had been widely considered the audience-award front-runner in Toronto.

Last year's audience award in Toronto went to "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri."

Toronto's audience award for documentary went to E. Chai Vasarhelyi and Jimmy Chin's "Free Solo," about mountain climber Alex Honnold.

Activists urge Lithuania to ban wild animals in circuses

VILNIUS, Lithuania (AP)—Animal rights activists have staged a demonstration in front of Lithuania's parliament to demand a ban on using wild animals in circuses after the reported death of a 6-month-old bear cub.

The demonstrators carried a tiny coffin during a symbolic funeral on Sunday for the cub. Lithuanian news media have reported the bear died in captivity at a local circus during the summer.

Several dozen participants brought teddy bears to the rally.

Activist Agne Klevinyte says Lithuania should stop the "exploitation" of bears, tigers and other animals in circus shows where "wild animals do not belong."

More than 40 countries, including most European Union members, already outlaw the use of wild animals in circuses.

Lithuanian lawmakers are expected to vote on a ban later this year.

Wife on the verge of divorce calls for a one-year reprieve

DEAR ABBY: My husband has less and less interest in me. It started with the last presidential election. Since then, I have cut way back on politics because he doesn't want to hear any of it. Being an activist on several fronts, including politics and other areas, this is a big, emotional part of who I am. I get so upset by his silences that I stop talking to him completely.

I'm spent from feeling so lonely, so unworthy of love, helpless, hopeless and powerless. I can't take this much longer. He says he wants to be with me, and he has just started private therapy. I, too, am in therapy.

I was ready to draw up divorce papers when I suddenly changed my mind. I told him I'd wait a year for him to have his therapy, and then we'd review everything we had learned and proceed from there.

Have I made a mistake? Right now, I can't stand to be around him. He can be the world's greatest giver, but other times he's a selfish, insensitive, arrogant know-it-all. I don't know if I'm still in love with him. Does this proposed one-year respite have any chance of working?

SAD WIFE IN BUFFALO

DEAR WIFE: Yes, it does. It appears that in the midst of your pain and turmoil you experienced a brief moment of clarity. Your decision to give your husband—and yourself—a year of therapy and then revisit the issue of divorce was both wise and brilliant. You married each other for a reason; now give yourselves a chance to remember what it was.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: New neighbors moved in a few doors down from us. A few weeks later, they hosted an open house and invited about 15 families from the homes closest to theirs. They served food and graciously gave everyone a tour of the home, which had been completely renovated.

My husband and I arrived about the same time as another neighbor, and the three of us visited with our hostess. As she rolled out the red carpet, the other neighbor proceeded to talk about the history of the home—who had lived there and what the house had been like when she visited there as a friend of the previous owners.

She then announced that the man who owned the home years ago had committed suicide—in the home. The hostess maintained a gracious stance, but my husband and I were horrified. Should the neighbor be told that her comment was inappropriate?

HORRIFIED IN THE EAST

DEAR HORRIFIED: Because the comment may have cast a pall over the housewarming, it was inappropriate. However, it may not have come as a complete surprise to the new owners. In the state where I reside, real estate agents are required by law to disclose that there had been a death in the house (suicide, murder), which might affect the value of the property. If you feel the need to say something to the neighbor who made that tasteless comment, by all means do so.

■■■

TO MY JEWISH READERS: Yom Kippur, the day of atonement, begins at sundown. During this 24-hour period, observant Jewish people fast, engage in reflection and prayer, and formally repent for any sin that might have been committed during the previous Hebrew year. To all of you—may your fast be an easy, but meaningful, one.

■■■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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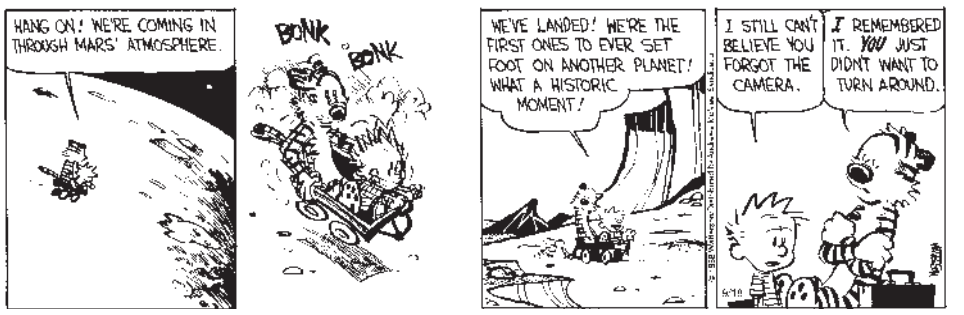
Pastimes

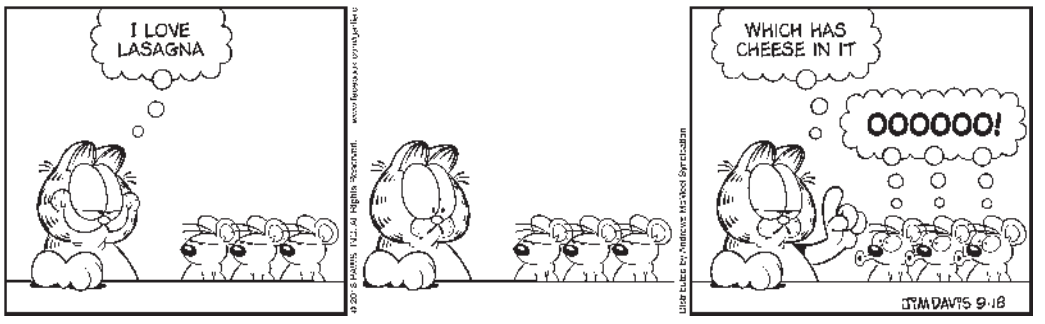
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HANG ON! WE'RE COMING IN THROUGH MARS' ATMOSPHERE.
BONK
BONK
WE'VE LANDED! WE'RE THE FIRST ONES TO EVER SET FOOT ON ANOTHER PLANET! WHAT A HISTORIC MOMENT!
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE YOU FORGOT THE CAMERA.
I REMEMBERED IT. YOU JUST DIDN'T WANT TO TURN AROUND.

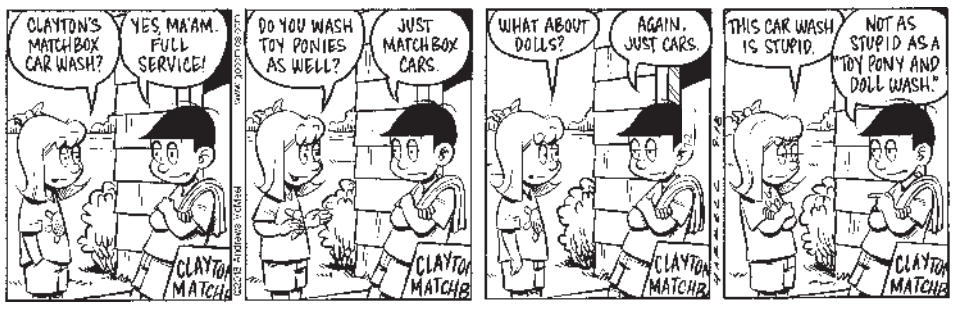
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


CLAYTON'S MATCHBOX CAR WASH?
YES, MA'AM. FULL SERVICE!
DO YOU WASH TOY PONIES AS WELL?
JUST MATCHBOX CARS.
WHAT ABOUT DOLLS?
AGAIN. JUST CARS.
THIS CAR WASH IS STUPID.
NOT AS STUPID AS A "TOY PONY AND DOLL WASH."

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

RING
CONGRATULATIONS! YOU'VE BEEN SELECTED TO TAKE PART IN A BRIEF SURVEY!
CONGRATULATIONS! YOU'VE BEEN SELECTED TO BE CALLED THE FOLLOWING NAMES BEFORE I HANG UP!...

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

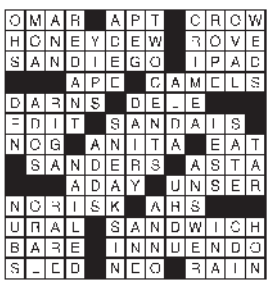
ACROSS

1 Use a phone
5 "Dragnet" org.
9 Started
12 Writer James
13 "Garfield" dog
14 Spanish gold
15 Seven weeks after Easter
17 Texas tea
18 Med. plan options
19 Painter's stand
21 Roman robes
24 Initial chip
25 Elliptical
26 Rocker Elvis
30 Shriner's chapeau
31 Feel
32 Corn serving
33 Price per can, say
35 Hay bundle
36 Meadows
37 Parlor pieces
38 Grinding tooth
40 Vicinity
42 Parisian pal
43 Central American nation
48 Earth (Pref.)
49 Author Wiesel
50 Campus digs
51 Hostel
52 Umps
53 Use scissors

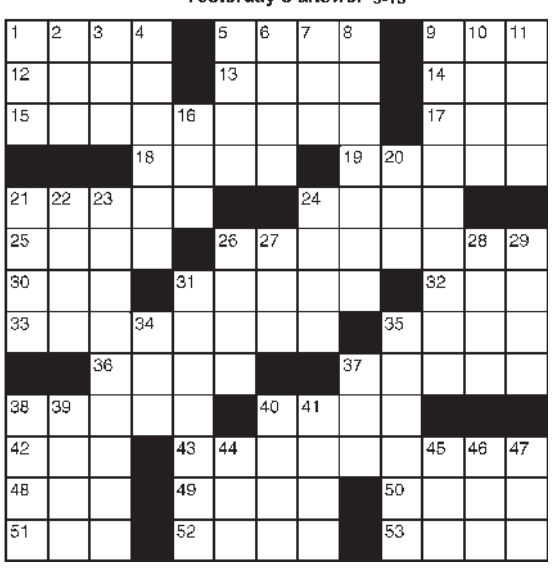
DOWN

1 Upper limit
2 Get older
3 Cariou of "Blue Bloods"
4 Deadly
5 Crazy
6 Big fusses
7 Math ratios
8 Cold War thaw
9 Type of binder
10 Buffalo's county
11 Barbie, e.g.
16 Type measures
20 Consumed
21 Bean curd
22 Pizza cooker
23 Ginormous amount
24 Admin. aide
26 Corp. kingpins
27 Clip- — (some ties)
28 Chorus syllables
29 Raw minerals
31 Not as prevalent
34 Earl Grey, for one
35 Gets on a train
37 Salty expanse
38 Crèche trio
39 Portent
40 "Dream on!"
41 Numbered rds.
44 World Cup cheer
45 Charged bit
46 Dernier —
47 Music booster

Solution time: 22 mins.



Yesterday's answer 9-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jason Sudeikis, 43; James Marsden, 45; Jada Pinkett Smith, 47; Aisha Tyler, 48.

Happy Birthday: Embrace the upcoming year with enthusiasm, tenacity and desire. Say what's on your mind and follow through with action. Don't let what's happened in the past cause insecurity. Recognize what you are capable of and be proactive. It's your turn to shine, so don't hold back when you should be implementing the changes that will help you get ahead. Your numbers are 4, 10, 14, 25, 33, 39, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Check out the changes others are making and consider what might work for you. Observing, asking questions and offering to help someone a few steps ahead of you can be remarkably helpful to both you and the other person. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Change can be good as long as it's thought-out and enforced properly. Don't let anyone rush you. Take your time and stay in control. After all, it's up to you to look out for your best interests. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Set a path and stick to it. Preparation will help you eliminate making a mistake or letting someone convince you that he or she knows more. Be secretive about your plans if you want to avoid interference. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* You have more options than you think. Consider the best way to use your skills, knowledge and experience to head in a direction that suits your current lifestyle and direction. Romance is on the rise, and opportunity is heading your way. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* The best way to move forward is to put your head down and concentrate on taking care of responsibilities and living up to your word. Avoid interaction with anyone who tends to put you down or takes advantage of your generosity. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* You owe it to yourself to have some fun. Bring about personal changes that will lift your spirits and give you something to look forward to. Socializing or networking with colleagues will encourage positive change and personal growth. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You'll need to navigate your way through troubled waters today. Ignore attempts made to stand in your way and stay focused on your goal. Less interaction with others and more physical labor will result in what you want to achieve. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Speak up and get answers. Your astute way of dealing with matters will help you find solutions to problems that not only affect you but those around you. Take charge and you'll gain popularity and respect. Walk away from unpredictable people and situations. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Don't spend what you don't have. Trying to impress someone or buying love will only leave you short of cash and no further ahead with the people you want to win over. Taking a risk will not pay off. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You'll be torn between what you want to do and what you should do. Look at the big picture and consider what will have the best long-term effects, and you'll know exactly what to do next. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Calm down and think matters through. If you act in haste or you let someone talk you into something you have doubts about, you will wish you had played it safe. Personal or physical changes are best put on hold. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Helping others will make you feel good and raise your profile. A change at work or to how you earn your living will turn in your favor. Speak up and people will listen to what you have to say. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are compassionate, perceptive and resourceful. You are ambitious and proactive.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		8	1			5		
		2		3				8
			4	2				
			9			6	1	
4		9				8		5
	1	5			4			
				7	1			
6				8		3		
	9				6	1		

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

2	1	7	5	8	6	4	3	9
5	3	4	1	9	7	8	2	6
9	6	8	4	3	2	5	1	7
4	7	5	9	6	3	1	8	2
6	2	1	7	4	8	3	9	5
3	8	9	2	5	1	7	6	4
8	9	2	3	7	5	6	4	1
1	5	6	8	2	4	9	7	3
7	4	3	6	1	9	2	5	8

Difficulty Level ★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

USING A SCANNER Solution: 9 letters

D	W	E	I	V	E	R	P	R	O	G	R	A	M	D
S	A	M	P	L	E	R	E	T	T	E	L	E	E	E
T	O	T	L	G	I	C	C	R	O	P	P	T	S	X
O	E	G	A	N	A	M	J	O	B	S	A	I	S	P
R	U	P	T	M	S	F	K	E	N	M	P	H	A	O
A	K	E	I	S	A	S	D	R	R	T	E	W	G	R
G	R	C	G	X	E	U	E	O	A	U	R	B	E	T
E	E	L	I	F	O	T	F	C	P	M	L	A	A	R
Z	V	N	D	L	U	A	T	L	C	A	E	T	C	A
Y	G	O	C	P	C	R	O	I	C	A	S	S	C	T
L	I	A	M	E	E	A	O	K	N	N	S	I	O	S
A	C	O	D	D	D	T	L	T	H	G	I	L	U	D
N	C	O	L	I	T	A	B	L	E	T	S	Y	N	C
A	W	O	P	T	E	G	A	M	I	T	X	E	T	S
N	F	E	P	Y	T	E	R	U	C	E	S	A	V	E

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Yesterday's Answer: Endurance

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 37 through 51, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

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3. Analyze business operations, costs, revenues and financial commitments and obligations.
4. Report to the management regarding the finances of the company.
5. Records and assign entries to proper accounts
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7. Prepares forms and manuals for accounting and bookkeeping personnel and their work activities.
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9. Appraise, evaluate and inventory real property and equipment, recording information as the property's description, value and location.
10. Summarizes current financial status by collecting information, preparing balance sheet, profit and loss statement, and other reports.
11. Secures financial information by completing data base backups.
12. Maintains financial security by following internal controls
13. Prepares payments by verifying documentation and requesting disbursements.
14. Complies with federal, state, and local financial legal requirements by studying existing and new legislation, enforcing adherence to requirements and advising management on needed actions.
15. Answers accounting procedure questions by researching and interpreting accounting policy and regulations.

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Special Requirements:
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3. Must have at least two (2) years employment certification on present or previous employer.

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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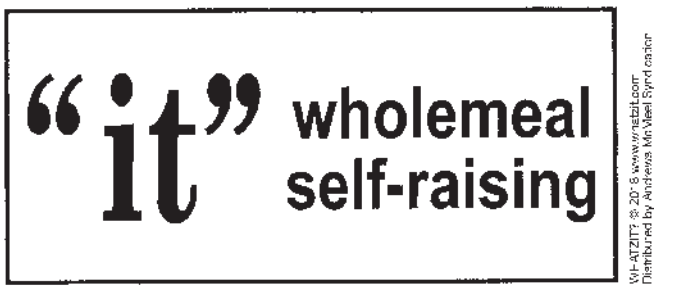
All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Manning, Giants roughed up by Cowboys

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Eli Manning was getting hammered hard even when he wasn't getting sacked by the Dallas Cowboys.

When the New York Giants quarterback scrambled up the middle into the open field in the third quarter, he took a crushing blow from linebacker Jaylon Smith .

"It was third down, I was trying to make something happen," Manning said. "I wanted to get the touchdown or just do something. I didn't see the replay. I think it looked worse than it really was."

Either way, it put Manning on the turf like so many other times in a 20-13 loss Sunday night that dropped to Giants to 0-2 under new coach Pat Shurmur.

Manning was sacked six times, the most since Philadelphia got him that many times four seasons ago. Only three times in his 218 career games has he been sacked more—the most was eight (at Dallas a decade ago in Texas Stadium, a year before the Cowboys moved into JerryWorld, and against the Eagles in 2006).

"We didn't do anything well enough on offense to win this game," Shurmur said.

While Manning was 33-of-44 passing without an interception, those completions went for only 279 yards. Just one pass went for more than 18 yards. Rookie running back Saquon Barkley was targeted 16 times, and finished with 14 catches for 80 yards.

Cody Latimer's 37-yard catch down the right side came on that third-quarter drive before Manning's 1-yard gain on a third-and-11 scramble that ended with Smith's hit. That set up a 28-yard field goal that was New York's only score until putting up 10 points in the final 1:27 of the game.

AP

New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning (10) is sacked for a loss by Dallas Cowboys defensive end Demarcus Lawrence (90) during the first half of an NFL football game in Arlington, Texas, Sunday, Sept. 16, 2018.

Saints 21, Browns 18

In New Orleans ,Wil Lutz kicked a 44-yard field goal for New Orleans with 21 seconds left, Cleveland kicker Zane Gonzalez pushed the second of his two missed field goals wide right in the final seconds, and the Saints held on for a victory that extended the Browns' winless streak to 19 games.

Gonzalez also missed two extra points, one week after his potential winning field goal was blocked in a season-opening tie with Pittsburgh.

Cleveland (0-1-1) carried a two-score lead into the final nine minutes before its latest collapse.

Vikings 29, Packers 29

In Green Bay, Daniel Carlson missed two field goals in overtime, including one from 35 yards as time expired, and the Vikings had to settle for a tie after rallying from a late 13-point deficit.

The rookie pushed his final kick wide right, just like his attempt from 49 earlier in overtime.

Packers kicker Mason Crosby matched a career high with five field goals, but his potential game winner from 52 went wide left as time expired in regulation.

Chiefs 42, Steelers 37

In Pittsburgh, Patrick Mahomes tied a franchise record with six touchdown passes. The 22-year-old Mahomes finished 23 of 28 for 326 yards in his third career start as the Chiefs (2-0) won in Pittsburgh for the first time since 1986. Mahomes has 10 touchdown passes through two weeks, the most ever by a quarterback through two games.

Trevor Kelce caught seven passes for 109 yards and two scores. Tyreek Hill, Chris Conley, Kareem Hunt and Demarcus Robinson also hauled in touchdown passes as the Chiefs recovered in the second half after blowing an early 21-pont lead.

Buccaneers 27, Eagles 21

In Tampa Bay, Ryan Fitzpatrick threw for more than 400 yards and four touchdowns for the second straight week.

Filling in for suspended quarterback Jameis Winston, the 35-year-old Fitzpatrick completed 27 of 32 passes for 402 yards and has the suddenly explosive Bucs off to a 2-0 start for the first time since 2010.

DeSean Jackson scored on a 75-yard reception on the first play of the game. O.J. Howard also had a 75-yard TD catch in the first half for Tampa Bay, which stunned New Orleans 48-40 on the road in its season opener.

Jaguars 31, Patriots 20

In Jacksonville, Blake Bortles threw four touchdown passes, three in the first half, and the Jaguars(2-0) beat Tom Brady and the Patriots in a rematch of last season's AFC championship game.

Bortles connected with Donte Moncrief, Keelan Cole and Austin Seferian-Jenkins for scores in the first 30 minutes, the second time he's done that in his NFL career. Bortles completed 29 of 45 passes for 377 yards, with the four TDs and an interception. It was the best game of his five-year career.

Broncos 29, Raiders 19

In Denver, Brandon McManus kicked a 36-yard field goal just inside the right upright with 6 seconds left, denying Jon Gruden his first win as a head coach since 2008.

With no timeouts and 18 seconds left, Case Keenum hit Tim Patrick for a 26-yard gain to the Oakland 18. Cornerbacks Gareon Conley and Leon Hall couldn't tackle him inbounds and McManus came on to give the Broncos (2-0) their first lead.

The Raiders (0-2) lost despite a stellar outing by Derek Carr, who completed 29 of 32 passes for 288 yards and a score four days after Gruden called him out for passing up throws to Amari Cooper in Oakland's opener.

Rams 34, Cardinals 0

In Los Angeles, Todd Gurley ran for three touchdowns, Jared Goff threw for 354 yards and a touchdown.

The Rams have won their first two games for the first time since 2001, when they started 6-0 en route to the third Super Bowl appearance in team history.

It was the second time in Gurley's four-year NFL career that he had three rushing scores in a game. The other time was Week 15 at Seattle last season. Gurley finished with 42 yards on 19 carries as he played only three quarters due to cramps.

49ers 30, Lions 27

In Santa Clara, Jimmy Garoppolo threw two touchdown passes, Matt Breida ran for 138 yards and San Francisco's longest TD run in four seasons , and the 49ers bounced back from a season-opening loss.

Garoppolo nearly made a costly mistake when he threw a late interception to Tracy Walker that was returned to the San Francisco 7. But Quandre Diggs was called for a defensive holding away from the play to give the 49ers (1-1) a first down.

Falcons 31, Panthers 24

In Atlanta, Matt Ryan ran for a pair of scores for the first time in his career and threw a pair of TD passes.

After scoring on a 1-yard sneak that pushed Atlanta (1-1) to a 24-10 lead early in the third quarter, Ryan delivered the biggest blow with a brilliant scamper midway through the fourth quarter. On third-and-5 from the Carolina 8, he looked around futilely for an open receiver, spotted a running lane to the left and took off for the end zone.

Dolphins 20, Jets 12

In East Rutherford, Ryan Tannehill threw two touchdown passes, Kenyan Drake ran for a score and the Dolphins took advantage of several mistakes by Sam Darnold and the Jets.

T.J. McDonald and Xavien Howard each intercepted the Jets' rookie quarterback, helping the Dolphins to their first 2-0 start to a season since 2013.

Tannehill finished 17 of 23 for 168 yards and also ran for 44 yards on eight carries for the Dolphins, coming off a win in the longest NFL game since 1970 merger by outlasting Tennessee in 7 hours, 8 minutes last Sunday.

Chargers 31, Bills 20

In Orchard Park, Melvin Gordon matched a career high by scoring three touchdowns, and the Chargers manhandled the anemic Bills during rookie quarterback Josh Allen's debut as a starter.

Gordon scored on a 20-yard run and added two touchdowns receiving before limping off the field after appearing to hurt his left leg early in the fourth quarter.

Gordon finished with just 28 yards rushing and six catches for 38 yards in his second three-TD game. He had two touchdowns rushing and one receiving in a 33-30 win at Atlanta on Oct. 23, 2016.

Titans 20, Texans 17

In Nashville, Ryan Succop kicked a 31-yard field goal with 1:00 left, and the battered Titans held off the Texans to give Mike Vrabel his first victory as an NFL head coach.

Succop also kicked a tying 42-yarder in the fourth quarter as Tennessee (1-1) pulled out the win with quarterback Marcus Mariota watching from the sideline. The Titans also were missing their top three offensive tackles.

Blaine Gabbert, starting for his fourth NFL team, threw for 117 yards and a touchdown.

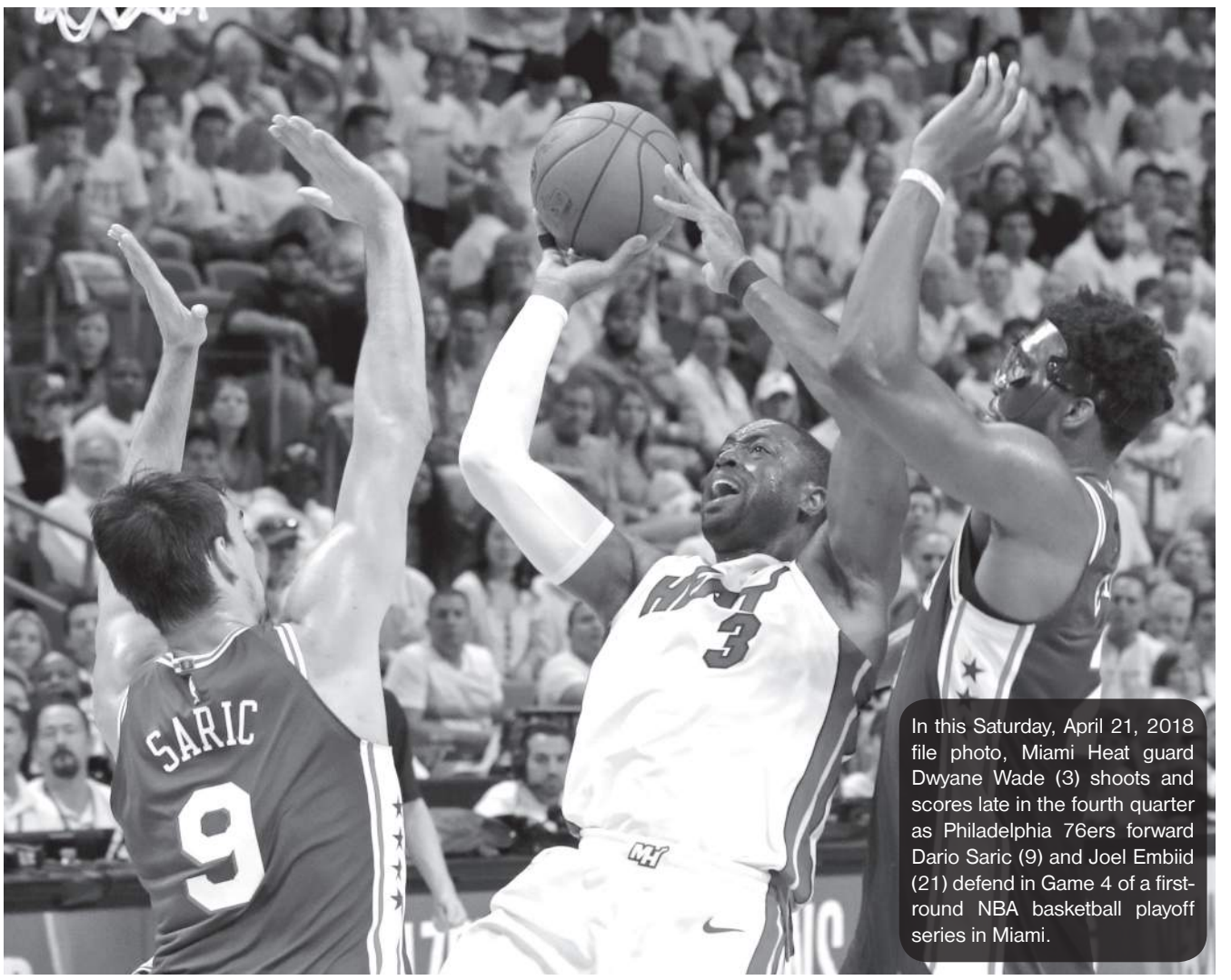
Colts 21, Redskins 9

In Landover, Andrew Luck threw for two touchdown passes, shook off two interceptions and engineered a game-sealing drive.

Luck was 21 of 31 for 179 yards and had a TD pass in a 25th consecutive game, the longest active streak in the NFL. He was 7 of 8 for 62 yards on a methodical 13-play, 75-yard drive that culminated in a Luck-to-T.Y. Hilton score that put Indianapolis (1-1) up 21-9 early in the fourth quarter.

Executing first-year coach Frank Reich's creative play-calling scheme, Luck also found Eric Ebron for a touchdown on the game's opening drive.

Wade returning to Heat for final season


In this Saturday, April 21, 2018 file photo, Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade (3) shoots and scores late in the fourth quarter as Philadelphia 76ers forward Dario Saric (9) and Joel Embiid (21) defend in Game 4 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series in Miami.

MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade looked into the camera, stood alone in the middle of a darkened room and talked for 10 minutes. He struggled with his words at times, unable to control his emotions. He wept.

And finally, he made what he called the hardest decision of his life.

One more year.

Retirement needs to wait a little bit longer for Wade, who announced Sunday night in a video taped earlier in the day that he's returning for a 16th and final NBA season. He basically spent the entirety of the last four months weighing his options, and retirement—even just a few days ago—was an extremely real possibility in his mind.

"I've always did things my way," said Wade, who is expected to sign a $2.4 million, one-year deal later this week. "Whether they've good or whether they've been bad, I got here because I've done things the way that I feel is right for me and right for my family. And what I feel is right ... I feel it's right to ask you guys to join me for one last dance, for one last season.

"This is it. I've given this game everything that I have, and I'm happy about that, and I'm going to give it for one last season, everything else I have left."

Wade is Miami's career leader in points, assists, steals and games played. His status was an enormous question mark this summer, especially now with the team a week away from going to training camp. Miami has signed 19 players for camp, one shy of the maximum preseason allotment, and it was never a question why they kept that last spot open.

It's filled now, by the most accomplished Heat player ever. Yet it was no guarantee that Wade, a 22.5-point scorer for his career, would return.

His decision took longer than some expected, partly because he was deciding what he wanted to do, partly because he was dealing with some personal business and some family business, and partly because it took him and the Heat some time to figure out what made sense for both sides. A person familiar with Wade's thinking told The Associated Press that the guard was strongly considering retirement until late last week, when Heat coach Erik Spoelstra and others made a late push to help him decide.

Whatever they said worked.

"Can I physically do it? Can I physically get out of bed every day to do this? Can I step with every step hurting in the morning? Can I deal with the travel? Can I be away from my family? Is it selfish for me to want to continue to be away from my family?" Wade said, reeling off a list of questions that he pondered when making the decision.

He apparently found his answers.

"These things to you guys may seem small," Wade said. "But to me, they're real. I feel like my family has put me first for so many years, for good reasons. But there comes a point in time when we've all got to think about someone else, especially the ones around you that have supported you, supported your dreams, supported your journey like my family have."

Wade's return basically means that Miami will have the same team—a young, rising team it believes in many respects—this coming season as it had last season, when it went 44-38 and claimed the No. 6 seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs.

This time, though, the Heat will have Wade from the season's outset.

He spent 2016-17 in his hometown of Chicago, then began last season with Cleveland. Wade returned to the Heat in a trade last February, appearing in 26 games including playoffs, enamoring Miami again even while coming off the bench and averaging 12.9 points. His impact on the court was clear, and so was his impact off the court—Wade was very involved in the response to the Feb. 14 massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School that left 17 dead, including a student named Joaquin Oliver who was a Heat fan.

Oliver's parents buried their son in a Wade jersey.

That touched Wade deeply, and he spent the latter portion of last season dealing with both the anguish of that and the death of his longtime agent Henry Thomas. Wade would eventually say that he felt lost at times last season without Thomas, that he wasn't always getting the same joy out of playing the game as he once did.

"When I lost Hank, I lost a part of me," Wade said, wiping away tears.

Red Sox beat Mets, cut magic number to 2

BOSTON (AP)—Red Sox right fielder Mookie Betts left the game after hurting his left side making a throw to home plate during a 4-3 win over the New York Mets on Sunday that cut Boston's magic number to two for a third straight AL East title.

Boston can clinch the division at Yankee Stadium for the second time in three seasons, needing only one win during a three-game series that opens Tuesday afternoon.

Betts said the injury is minor and he will be in the lineup Tuesday. He is hitting .337 with 29 homers and 72 RBIs.

Andrew Benintendi hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the eighth inning off Seth Lugo (3-4) after a matchup of Boston's Chris Sale and New York's Jacob deGrom, both Cy Young Award candidates. Brandon Workman (5-0) pitched a scoreless eighth, and Steven Wright got three outs for his first big league save.

Blue Jays 3, Yankees 2

In New York, Dellin Betances wasted a 2-1 eighth-inning lead, allowing hits to four of his first five batters. Pinch-hitter Rowdy Tellez had a tying single and Randal Grichuk a go-ahead double. Betances (4-6) has lost in two of his past three appearances.

The Yankees maintained a 1½-game lead over Oakland for the top AL wild card. Manager Aaron Boone said All-Star slugger Aaron Judge could return to the lineup against Boston.

Astros 5, Diamondbacks 4

In Houston, Justin Verlander (16-9) struck out 11 in seven innings, allowing one run and three hits for Houston, which leads second-place Oakland by 4½ games in the AL West.

Arizona began the day four games behind in the NL West and 3½ games back for the second NL wild-card spot.

Rays 5, Athletics 4

In St. Petersburg, Khris Davis hit a grand slam in the ninth off Sergio Romo, his major league-leading 43rd homer.

Tampa Bay trails Oakland by seven games with 14 games left. C.J. Cron and Willy Adames homered off Mike Fiers (12-7).

Nationals 6, Braves 4

In Atlanta, Bryce Harper and Anthony Rendon hit two-run homers off Sean Newcomb (12-9) and 19-year-old rookie Juan Soto added an RBI single.

Atlanta maintained a 6½-game lead in the NL East over second-place Philadelphia.

Tanner Roark (9-15) allowed two runs and five hits in 5 1/3 innings.

Marlins 6, Phillies 4

In Philadelphia, Peter O'Brien homered and drove in three runs as Miami ended a five-game losing streak. O'Brien put the Marlins ahead with a two-run homer in the fourth and Bryan Holaday added a pair of doubles.

Nick Pivetta (7-13) struck out seven in the first three innings.

Reds 2, Cubs 1

In Chicago, the Cubs' NL Central lead remained at 2½ games over second-place Milwaukee when Scott Schebler homered on the first pitch of the game from Jose Quintana (13-10) and Phillip Ervin also went deep.

Joey Votto had three hits for last-place Cincinnati.

Pirates 3, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Jesus Aguilar and Domingo Santana homered on consecutive pitches from Felipe Vazquez to begin the ninth, but Milwaukee fell short. The Brewers lead the NL wild-card race by 2½ games.

Trevor Williams (13-9) allowed two hits in six scoreless innings.

Rockies 3, Giants 2

In San Francisco, Antonio Senzatela pitched shutout ball into the sixth inning and also hit a two-run single as Colorado held its playoff position.

The Rockies, blanked the previous two days, avoided a three-game sweep. Colorado began the day with a half-game lead over St. Louis for the second NL wild-card spot and a half-game behind Los Angeles in the NL West.

Padres 7, Rangers 3

In San Diego, rookie Francisco Mejia hit a grand slam with two outs in the ninth inning and San Diego avoided three-game sweep in a matchup of last-place teams.

It was the first walkoff for Mejia, who was promoted from Triple-A on Sept. 4.

Angels 4, Mariners 3

In Anaheim, Kole Calhoun hit a two-run homer and Justin Upton homered in his third straight game as Los Angeles averted a four-game sweep.

Angels star Shohei Ohtani appeared to be limping as he jogged off the field in the eighth inning after he slid awkwardly into second base and was caught stealing.

Tigers 6, Indians 4

In Cleveland, the Indians rested several regulars a day after clinching the AL Central. Jim Adduci homered and drove in a career-high four runs for Detroit

Francisco Liriano (5-10) allowed three runs in seven innings for the Tigers.

Orioles 8, White Sox 4

In Balitmore, Jonathan Villar and Adam Jones homered and rookie Cedric Mullins had a career-high four hits.

Baltimore took control with a five-run first inning against Lucas Giolito (10-11) and held on for its 43rd victory.

Twins 9, Royals 6

In Kansas City, Tyler Austin hit one of Minnesota's four home runs and made a spectacular catch while flipping into the dugout down the first-base line as Minnesota avoided a four-game sweep.

Ronaldo has sights on Champions League after drought breaker

MILAN (AP)—After finally getting off the mark for Juventus in the league, Cristiano Ronaldo has his sights set on his favorite competition: the Champions League.

Ronaldo was under pressure after three games without scoring for Juventus since his move from Real Madrid, but he broke his mini-drought with two goals in Sunday's 2-1 win over Sassuolo in Serie A.

Next up for Juventus and Ronaldo is a trip to Valencia on Wednesday as the Champions League kicks off this week.

AP

Juventus' Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after scoring during a Serie A soccer match between Juventus and Sassuolo, at the Allianz Stadium in Turin, Italy, Sunday, Sept. 16, 2018.

"I feel like that's my home. It's the competition that I love the most," Ronaldo said. "Let's hope we have some luck, it will be a difficult group but I can't wait."

Juventus has won the Serie A title for the last seven seasons—and the league and Italian Cup double for the past four—but has struggled to transfer that domestic supremacy to the European stage.

Juventus hasn't won Europe's premier club competition since 1996, although it has reached the final twice in the past four editions. Splashing out a Serie A record 112 million euro (then $131.5 million) for Ronaldo, the five-time Ballon d'Or winner, sent out a message of its intent to go one step further this time around.

Ronaldo certainly revels in the Champions League. Not only has he won the trophy four times in the past five seasons, but he is also the competition's leading scorer with 120 goals.

And he appears to be getting into his stride at Juventus at just the right time.

His first goal was a simple tap-in but that appeared to unburden Ronaldo, who had played nearly 320 minutes of competitive football for Juventus without scoring, and he doubled his tally 15 minutes later.

That second goal showed the understanding that is developing between Ronaldo and his new teammates. Douglas Costa sparked a swift counterattack and picked out Emre Can, who spotted Ronaldo's run and set up the Portugal forward for a diagonal shot.

Valencia knows what a scoring threat Ronaldo can be: he scored 15 goals in 18 appearances against them for Real Madrid.

Also in Group H are Swiss team Young Boys and Manchester United—the club with which Ronaldo won his first Champions League title in 2008.

While Ronaldo may have found his scoring touch, two Serie A clubs have yet to find the back of the net.

Bologna and Frosinone have not scored in four matches and each club has one point, having played out a 0-0 draw last month

6JMS Mafia III vs Shaka in finals

The 6JMS Mafia III and 6JMS Shaka arranged their title duel in the Fanihi Division of the 2018 Saipan Electronic Darts Association League Bud Light Cup after prevailing in their respective semis matches last week.

The 6JMS Mafia III was the first team to advance in the finals after topping 6JMS Dartty Minded, 8-4. The 6JMS Mafia III earned a slot to the title game after winning three of the last four matches in the singles half-it.

In the other Final Four pairing, the 6JMS Shaka edged Oleai Desaten 2, 8-6. The second finalist moved a win away from clinching the Bud Light Cup in the division after taking the last two games in the partners regular cricket. The 6JMS Shaka will challenge the regular season champion 6JMS Mafia III in the Bud Light Cup finale this Thursday.

Meanwhile, the Flame Tree Division is down to four teams with Naked Fish Na'Gupu, Franken Board Members, Naked Fish Dartholics, and Jonny's Serial Killaz surviving the second round of playoffs.

Naked Fish Na'Gupu won over Jonny's Team Kyodai, 8-6; Franken Board Members downed Jonny's Real Deal, 8-5; Naked Fish Dartholics defeated Amari's Creepers, 8-3; and Jonny's Serial Killaz eliminated DNA Jump-It, 8-3. Franken Board Members will collide against Naked Fish Na'Gupu in the semis this Thursday, while Jonny's Serial Killaz will face Naked Fish Dartholics in the other Final Four pairing. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 6JMS Mafia III players pose for a photo after advancing to the finals of the Fanihi Division of the 2018 Saipan Electronic Darts Association League Bud Light Cup last week.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

	W	L	Pct	GB
East Division				
z-Boston	103	47	.687	—
New York	91	58	.611	11½
Tampa Bay	82	66	.554	20
Toronto	67	82	.450	35½
Baltimore	43	106	.289	59½
Central Division				
x-Cleveland	83	66	.557	—
Minnesota	68	81	.456	15
Detroit	61	88	.409	22
Chicago	59	90	.396	24
Kansas City	52	97	.349	31
West Division				
Houston	94	55	.631	—
Oakland	90	60	.600	4½
Seattle	82	67	.550	12
Los Angeles	74	76	.493	20½
Texas	64	85	.430	30
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Atlanta	83	66	.557	—
Philadelphia	76	72	.514	6½
Washington	76	74	.507	7½
New York	69	80	.463	14
Miami	58	91	.389	25
Central Division				
Chicago	87	62	.584	—
Milwaukee	85	65	.567	2½
St. Louis	82	68	.547	5½
Pittsburgh	74	74	.500	12½
Cincinnati	64	86	.427	23½
West Division				
Colorado	82	67	.550	—
Los Angeles	82	68	.547	½
Arizona	78	72	.520	4½
San Francisco	70	80	.467	12½
San Diego	60	90	.400	22½

z-clinched playoff berth
x-clinched division

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SBL

From Page 28

a 0-16 record. Titanium and the Blue Jays have also been eliminated, as the former has a 9-8 slate and the latter own a 4-14 mark. GSM, which has a 14-3 record, is in the playoffs and seeded No. 2, joining pennant winner Chalan Kanoa Bears (17-1), No. 3 Mariners (12-6), and defending champions Aces (12-6) to the postseason.

In the semifinal round, which is scheduled to start next week once the remaining regular season matches are completed, the Bears will face the Aces in a best-of-three series. The Mariners and GSM will have their on race to two wins showdown, while the finals will be a best-of-five affair.

The Bears are favored to make it all the way to the finals, as they will enter the playoff round on a 17-game winning streak. Incidentally, the pennant winners' lone defeat this season came from the Aces, who earned a double-digit win against the Bears, 14-4, in their March 9 encounter.

Despite the underdog tag, the Aces could not be taken likely, as they are also on a roll in the second round of the elimination. The defending champions prevailed in six of their eight matches in the second round after a lackluster performance in the first.

Meanwhile, SBL is lining up two more competitions once the 10-team tournament concluded. SBL will have the U25 and masters leagues.

ROTA

From Page 28

Coral Garden Hotel, Rota Resort & Country Club, Rota Resort Hotel, and Valentino Hotel are the hotels on the island.

"The Rota Blue Triathlon, and some of the other events in line after that, are still not confirmed because of the situation down there. The hotels, I understand, some of them suffered major damages. And so that's a concern, especially people are going in and out of Rota," said Concepcion. "[Federal Emergency Management Agency] and other Department of Defense officials are going in and out of Rota to help rebuild the island and they need accommodations as well."

Concepcion cleared that they are not canceling the event and would only move it to a later date.

"That's going to be a factor for us, whether or not we're going to continue with it this year or postpone it for a few months. One thing is for sure, the Rota Blue Triathlon is not going to happen in October. We'll see if it's possible to hold it at a later date. I have to go talk to the team to see what we can do and how far we can push it back," the MVA official said.

He added that last week's Rota Coconut Festival was called off, but two other events for October would push through, as MVA continues its efforts in promoting Rota and the entire CNMI to various channels in their target markets.

"We were supposed to co-host the Rota Coconut Festival last week with the Rota Mayor's Office, but that was postponed. The Bisita Luta and San Francisco de Borja Fiesta are still scheduled in the first week of October."

DEPLETED

From Page 28

in a bid to steal the win, Viray came to Shirley's rescue, as she scored with only five minutes left in the game.

TanHoldings 3, Paire 0

In the second game, TanHoldings shut down Paire.

Three different players made it to the board in TanHoldings' season debut. Julie Ann Capayas averted a scoreless first half when she found the back of the net in the 34th minute. Andrei Kaith Lynn Chavez also delivered for TanHoldings in their first game with her shot in the 50th minute, while Alyssa Angeles closed out for the winning team in the 56th.

After dispatching Paire, TanHoldings will go for win No. 2 this Saturday when it takes on Shirley's in the last game in the weekend tripleheader at 4pm.

MP United 7, Southern United 3

MP United completed Week 1's winners list after downing Southern United.

Maury Zon Tybaco powered MP United to victory after making a hat trick. She got her first two goals in back-to-back fashion after scoring in the 22nd and 32nd minute and handing MP United a 3-1 halftime lead. Audrey Castro nailed the other goal for MPU in the first half, while Mariana Castro recorded the lone goal for Southern United.

Castro also delivered the two other goals for Southern United in the second half, but these were not enough to bring her team back into the game, as MP United countered with four. Stellalou McCallion handed MPU its fourth goal in the 38th minute and had her second in the 53rd, while Tybaco completed her hat trick in the 52nd. Maya Shimizu was the other MPU player that hit the board in the second half.

After the easy win, MP United is expected to have a tougher assignment this Saturday when it duels defending champion Kanoa at 2:30pm. Southern United, on the other hand, will face Paire in the curtain raiser at 1pm.

BOYS U15 TanHoldings 2, Kanoa 1

In the boys U15 division, TanHoldings battled back from its opening week loss after edging Kanoa last Friday.

Taka Borja, who missed the team's season debut, reported back for duty and hit the dagger in the 60th minute. Ryuto Yanai registered the other goal for TanHoldings in the sixth minute, while Kanoa got an own goal in the second half of its first game this season.

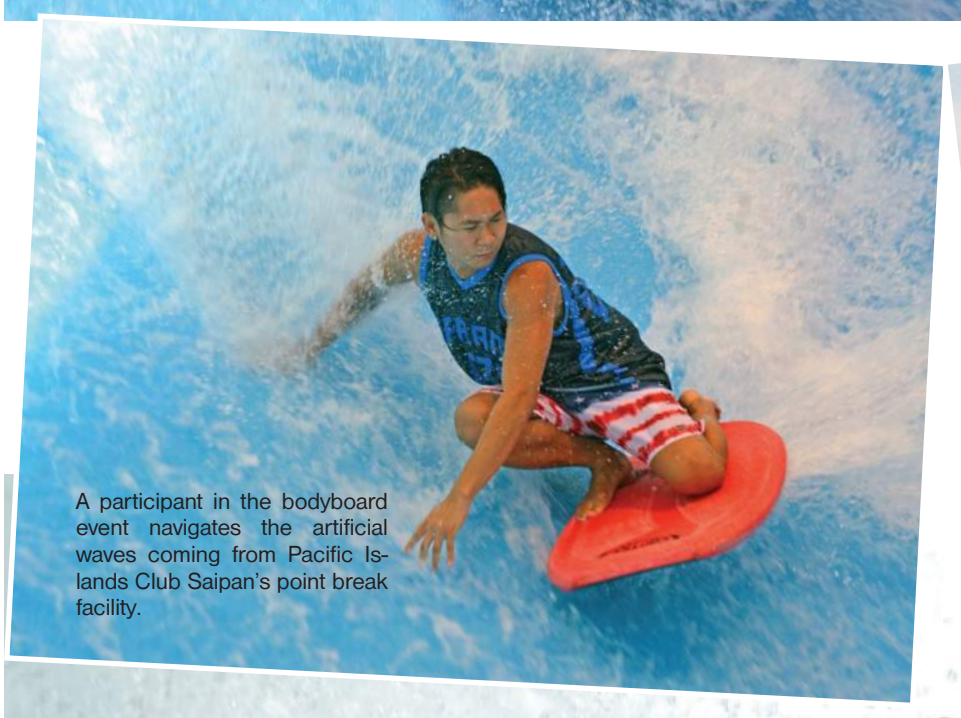
Meanwhile, the MP United-Matansa tiff in the first game last weekend ended in a scoreless draw. After the standoff, MP United will try to get win No. 2 this Friday when it squares off against TanHoldings at 7pm. In the 5:30pm match, it will be Kanoa versus Shirley's.

12th PIC Point Break Championships

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Thomas Reyes competes in the men's open bodyboard division in the 12th PIC Point Break Championships and 2018 Asia Flow Tour held over the weekend at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Wynn Brillo holds on to his bodyboard before making a move.



A participant in the bodyboard event navigates the artificial waves coming from Pacific Islands Club Saipan's point break facility.

Daniel Ryou slides down the waves, getting ready for his moves.

A spash of water greets Jin Woo Ryou as he starts to perform tricks for the judges.

Carmelino Garcia tries to keep his balance, as he performs tricks during the bodyboard event

James Welley heads down the artificial wave machine to warm up for the competition.

A participant in the competition gets ready to flip his bodyboard.

Manning, Giants roughed up by Cowboys

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Wade returning to Heat for final season

PAGE 25

Depleted Shirley's survives opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The shorthanded Shirley's Football Club escaped with a 3-2 victory against Matansa FC in the opening game in the girls U16 division of the 2018 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Pauline Shaine Viray delivered the go-ahead goal for Shirley's, which played in the opener minus three of its key players—Joannah Carreon, Lilian Podziewski, and Katrina Costales. The three Shirley's FC standouts are in Tajikistan, suiting up for the CNMI U16 Women's National Team that is competing in the AFC U16 Women's Championship 2019 Qualifiers.

With its depleted roster, Shirley's managed to come up with only six players at the start of its match, but Katherine Magat quickly stepped up in absence of her three teammates, scoring right in the second minute of the game. A goal from Jerlyn Castillo made it two in a row for Shirley's six minutes later. Matansa then moved within one, thanks to Kate Bae's conversion two minutes before the 35-minute first half wrapped up.

Bae knocked in another one in the 39th minute, as Matansa became more aggressive on offense despite the arrival of two more Shirley's defenders. With the game tied and Matansa still making several attempts

See DEPLETED on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Shirley's Football Club's Therize Millare, right, dribbles away from a Matansa FC defender during the first half of their girls U16 division game in the 2018 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

SBL resumes, sets playoffs next week

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The long-delayed 2018 Saipan Baseball League will play its remaining games in the regular season, starting tomorrow, weather permitting, at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Matches in the league have been stalled for more than two weeks due to rain and some repair work at the "Tan Ko" field. Only three games are left in the elimination round and they will no longer affect the rankings in the playoffs, but still have to be played to determine the winners in individual statistics. Tomorrow, the Outlaws are slated to face Titanium, while on Thursday, the former will take on the Blue Jays. For Friday's schedule, it will be Go See Mark versus the Blue Jays.

The Outlaws are out of playoff contention, as they currently hold

See SBL on Page 26

JON PEREZ
An Outlaws runner gets ready to head home, while a Mariners player checks on what's happening at home plate during an earlier regular season game in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Rota Blue not yet confirmed

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The 24th Rota Blue Triathlon is not yet confirmed, as the signature sporting event could be pushed back at a later date after the CNMI' southernmost island was hit by Typhoon Mangkhut.

Mangkhut's damaging winds took down power and telephone poles, and brought significant damage to houses and other structures on Rota.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion said hotel accommodations may be an issue for the hosting of the triathlon event since they are expecting that most of Rota's hotels are occupied or have been reserved for federal and military officials helping the island's recovery efforts. Bayview Hotel,

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A participant in last year's Rota Blue Triathlon negotiates the run leg of the race, which will not take place next month after the island was hit hard by Typhoon Mangkhut.